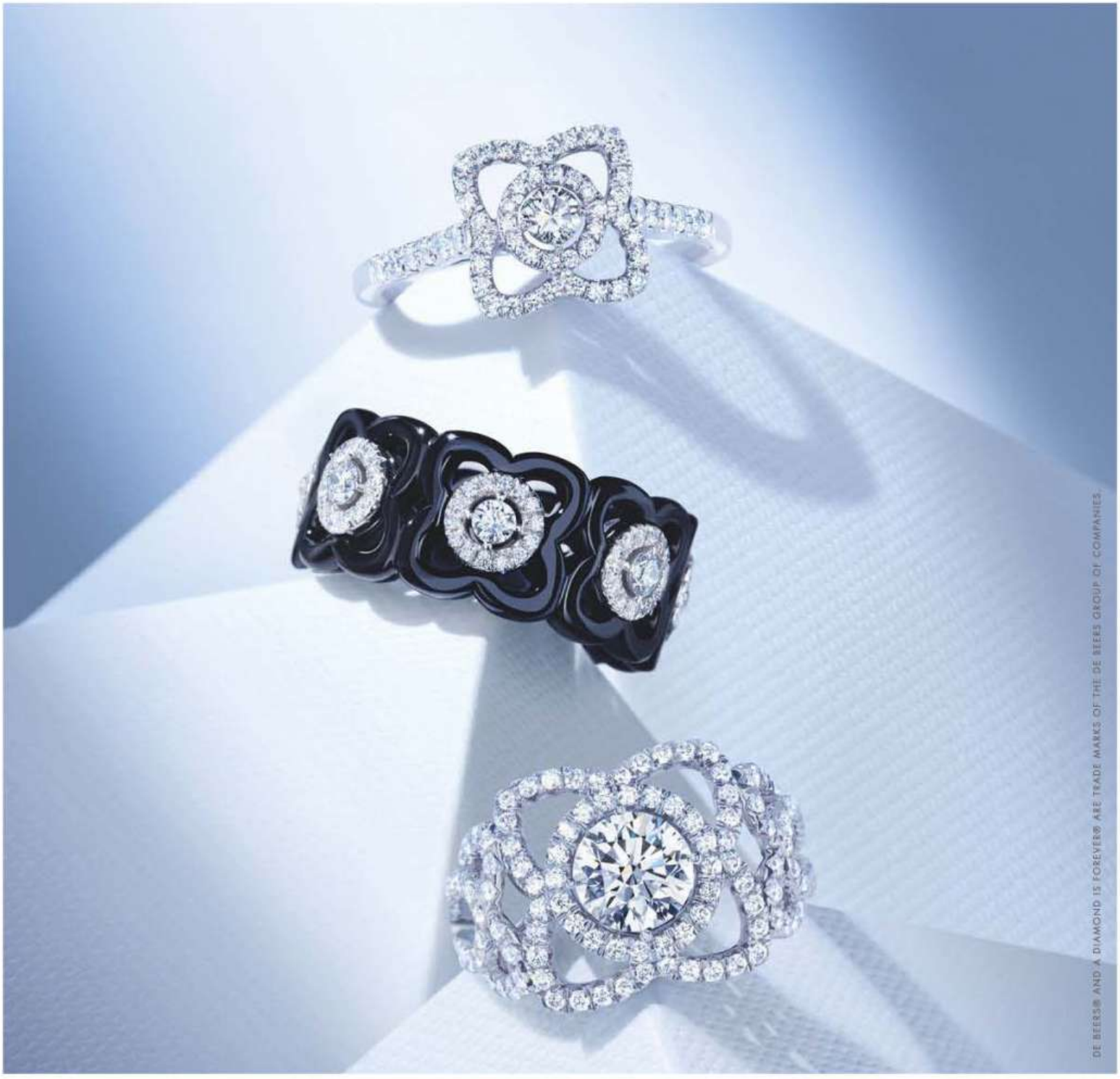

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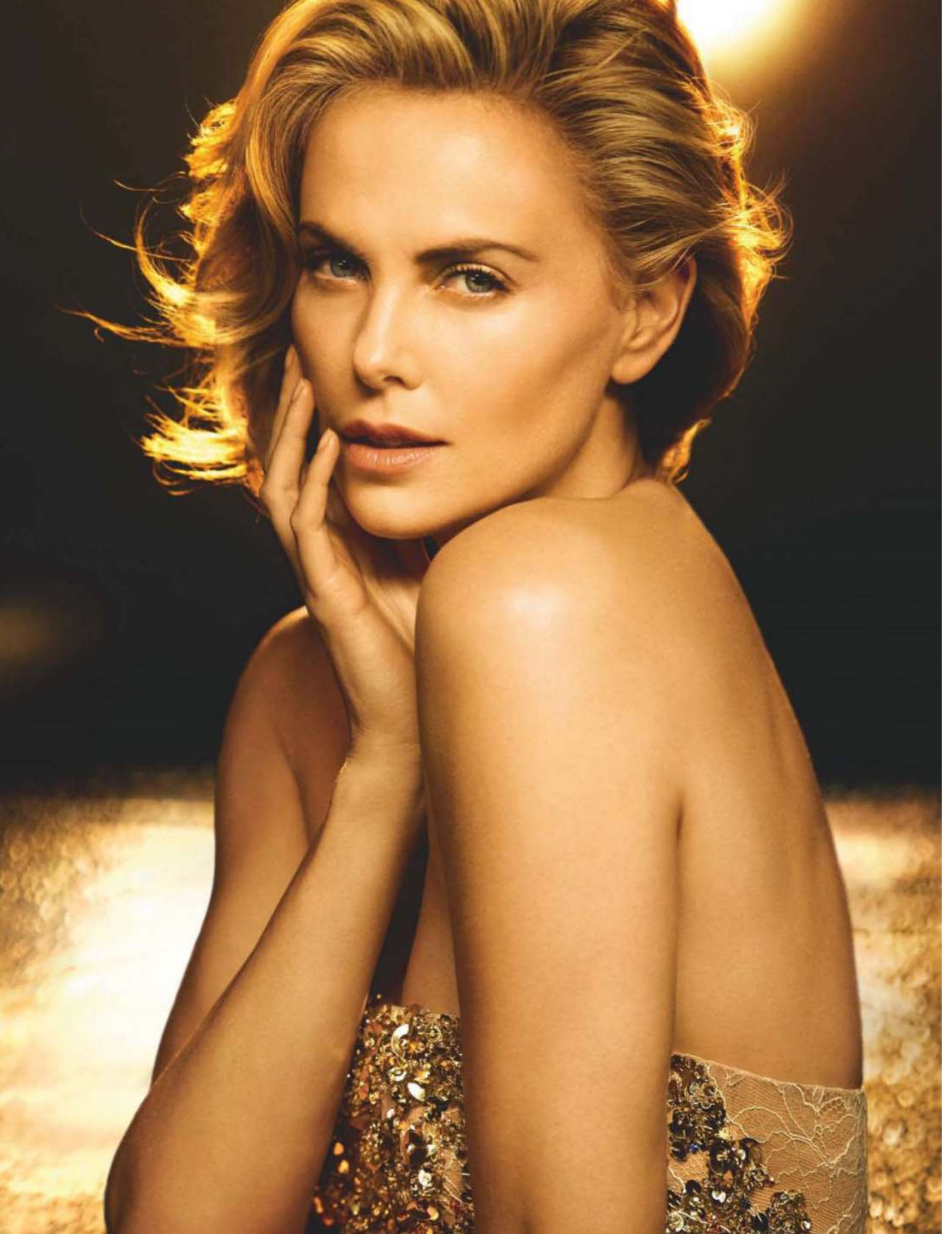
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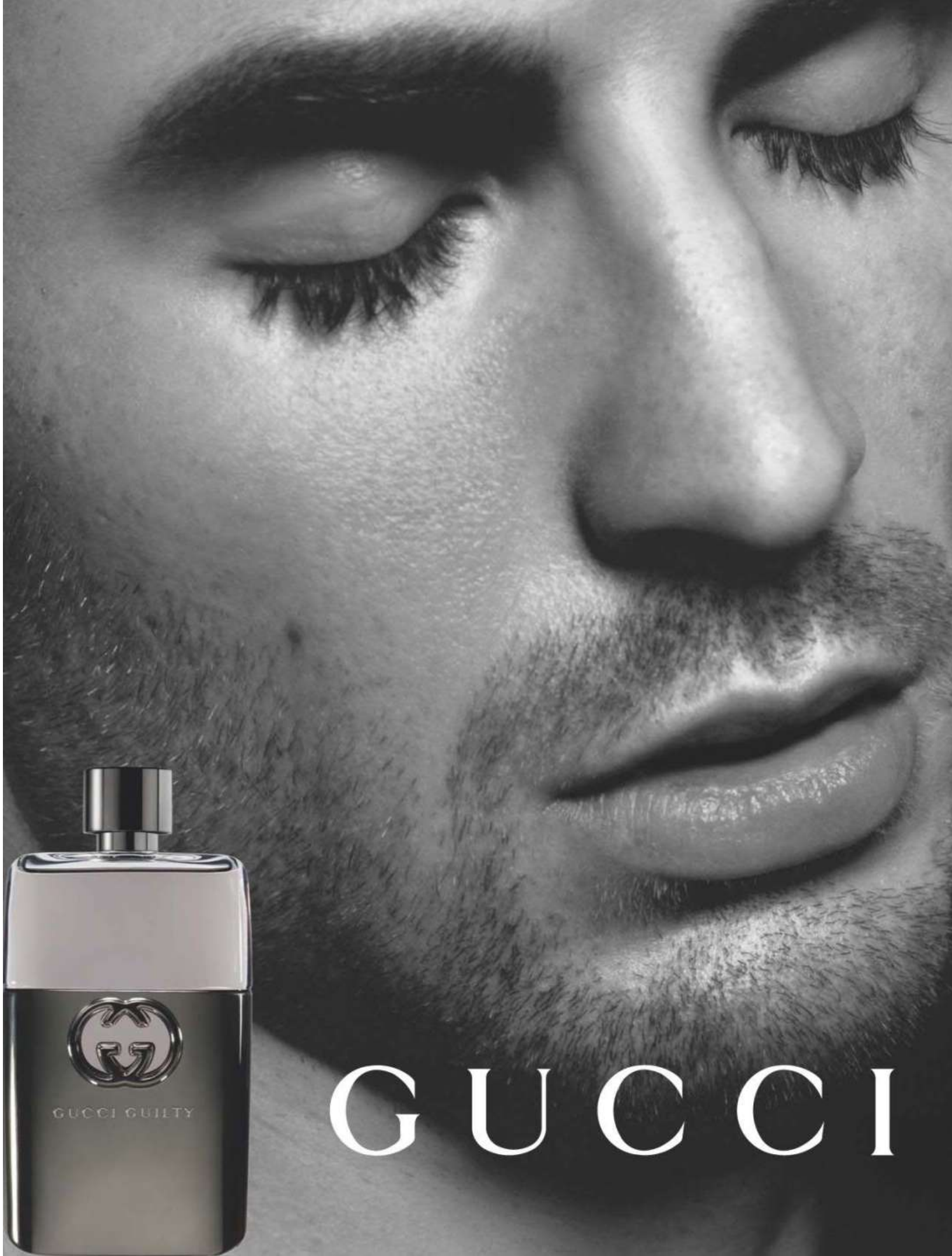
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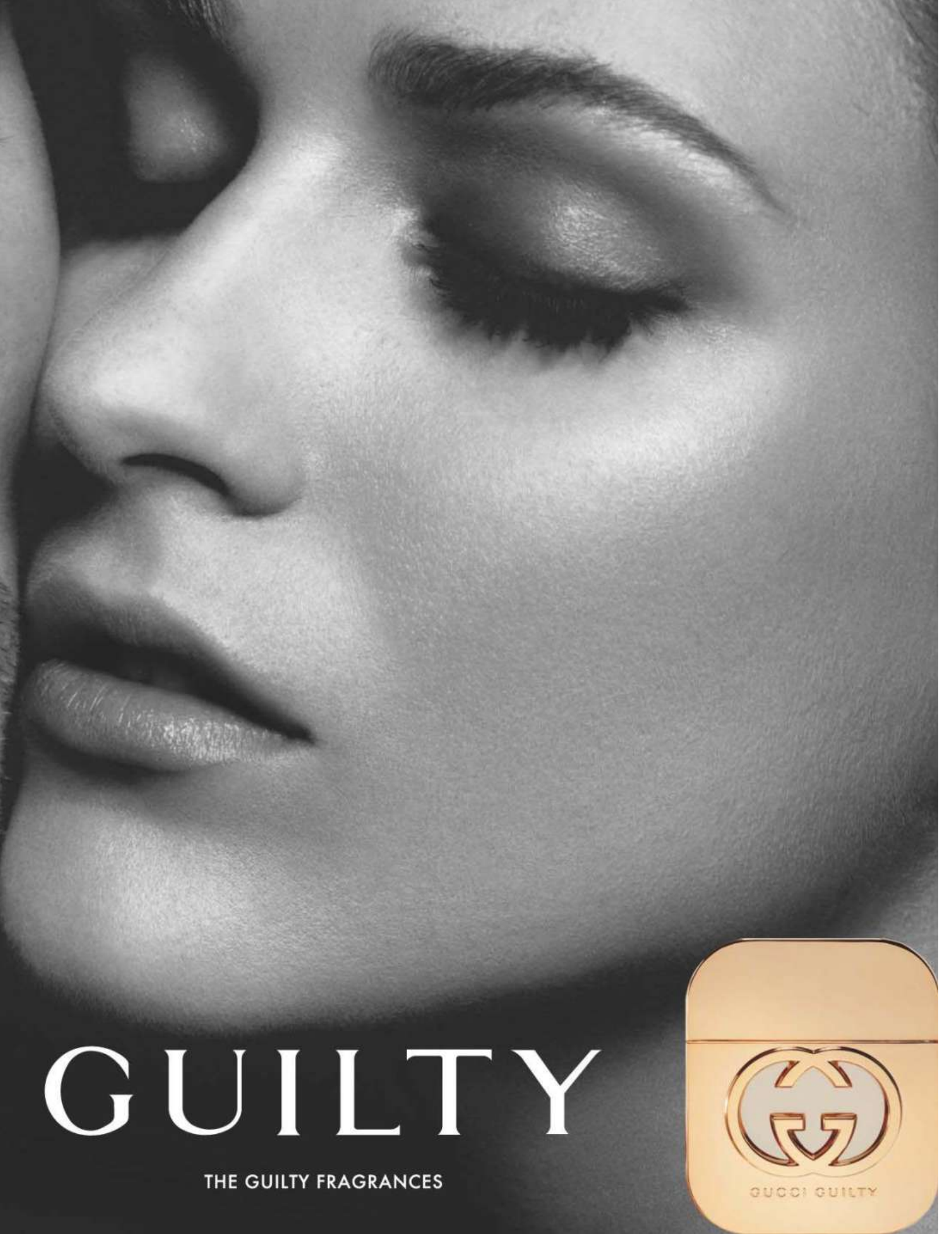




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COVER: LADY KITTY SPENCER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARC HOM
STYLED BY SOPHIE GOODWIN

Lady Kitty Spencer wears gown, £7,335, by Oscar de la Renta, at Selfridges. Brass 'letter' necklaces, £270 each, by Louis Vuitton. For stockists, see Address Book.
Hair by Stephen Low at Elsl Management for Neville Salon, using Bumble and bumble: Bb Texture and Surf Infusion.
Make-up by Dorita Nissen, using NARS Cosmetics: Eyeshadow in Bali, Brow Perfector in Caucase, Bronzer in Laguna, Steven Klein Dual Intensity Blush in Vengeful, Steven Klein Killer Shine Lipgloss in Fast Life.
Nails by Zarra Celik at LMC Worldwide, using Dior Christmas Look Diorific Vernis and Capture Totale Nurturing Hand Repair Cream: Diorific Vernis in Secret 454

LADY KITTY SPENCER WEARS CREPE-SATIN GOWN, £695, BY AMANDA WAKELEY, AT HARVEY NICHOLS. SILVER EARRINGS, £375, BY MARIA PIANA. PHOTOGRAPHS: MARC HOM, OLIVER STALMANS

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HUNGRY FOR MORE TATLER FUN? See page 41 for upcoming events and online antics





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NICE KITTY

This month's covergirl Lady Kitty Spencer dishes the dirt on her favourite place to dance, her earliest memories and the super-powers she wishes she had in our behind-the-scenes video at Tatler.com



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WHAT'S HOT

Diary looking a bit blank? Have a look at Tatler.com for the best things to do (like ice-skating at Somerset House – that time again).



Murder, she wrote

It's a thrilling book night with *Tatler* and The Books That Built Me: in the hot seat is Susan Hill, author of *The Woman in Black*. Join her on 8 December, from 6.30pm at the Club at Café Royal. Tickets are £30, which includes a six-month subscription to *Tatler,* a glass of Bollinger, Prestat chocolate and a copy of Susan's anthology, *The Woman in Black and Other Ghost Stories*. *thebooksthatbuiltsusan.eventbrite.co.uk*

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Tatler is hosting another Bystander bonanza for 13- to 16-year-olds. ***When?*** Monday 21 December. ***Where?*** Boujis. #SQUADGOALS. Tickets are £65* each, or £60 if buying four or more. Go to tatler.com/bystanderball. ** £55 for Privilege Club members.*

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MARTIN PARR

Martin photographs England's very best balls (page 170)

What's your signature dance move?
Freefall.

What's the best chat-up line you've ever heard?
'What are you doing here?'

What's the phrase or word you overuse the most?
'I am overwhelmed.'

If you could get away with one crime, what would it be?
To go into the Royal Enclosure at Ascot in jeans and trainers.

CONTRIBUTORS

What's on their minds this month?



SOPHIE GOODWIN

***Tatler*'s style editor dresses our sizzling covergirl, Lady Kitty Spencer (page 160)**

What's the best chat-up line you've ever heard? 'Do you know what my shirt is made of? Boyfriend material.'

What's your go-to fancy-dress costume? Anything slutty. I've been a slutty elf, a sexy skeleton, a slutty tequila girl...

What's your favourite joke? What do you call a three-legged donkey? Wonky. ▷

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DYLAN THOMAS

Dylan photographs glorious Somerleyton Hall (page 205)

What's your favourite joke? Why did the hipster stand by the fan? He was trying to stay cool.

What's your worst habit? Not being able to say no to a glass of port at any time of the day.

What's your signature dance move? The Carlton dance from *The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air.*

Which super-power would you most like to have? To be able to dance (see above).

CONTRIBUTORS

What's on their minds this month?



ANNABEL RIVKIN

***Tatler*'s editor-at-large wraps up Christmas (page 133)**

What's your worst habit?
Trop de swearage.

What's the phrase or word you overuse the most? 'Absolutely not.'

What never fails to make you laugh?
Babies in sunglasses. Never gets old.

What's your go-to fancy-dress costume?
Miss Piggy. □



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22 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD TO **WORRY ABOUT AT PARTIES...**



1 The waiters are actually immersive performers.

2 What if the Uber can't find it? WHAT IF THE UBER CAN'T FIND IT?

3 I have the same new haircut as the Duchess of Cambridge. And she's here.

4 My ex-boyfriend's new boyfriend is hotter than my new boyfriend. And they are all here.

5 Exploding quails' eggs. Yolk EVERYWHERE.



6 Post-childbirth dancefloor wee. Just pretend it hasn't happened. Plenty of people spill their drinks.

7 No one told me there would be poetry.

8 Sinkholes.

9 If there are drugs, I'll have to leave early.

10 If there are no drugs, I'll have to leave early.

11 Who even is Jeremy Corbyn? Is he the DJ?

12 The naughty feeling. It can come out of nowhere. Trouble.

13 One famous person. Such a downer.

14 Jacuzzis.



15 OMG, this party has a videographer *and* a choreographer.

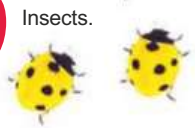
16 This party's Instagram is not strong enough.

17 Hummus bacteria.

18 This conversation is not going well – who is the bore? Me or him?



19 Insects.



20 My hands are looking old.

21 No one told me it was an orgy.

22 Vegans. ☐



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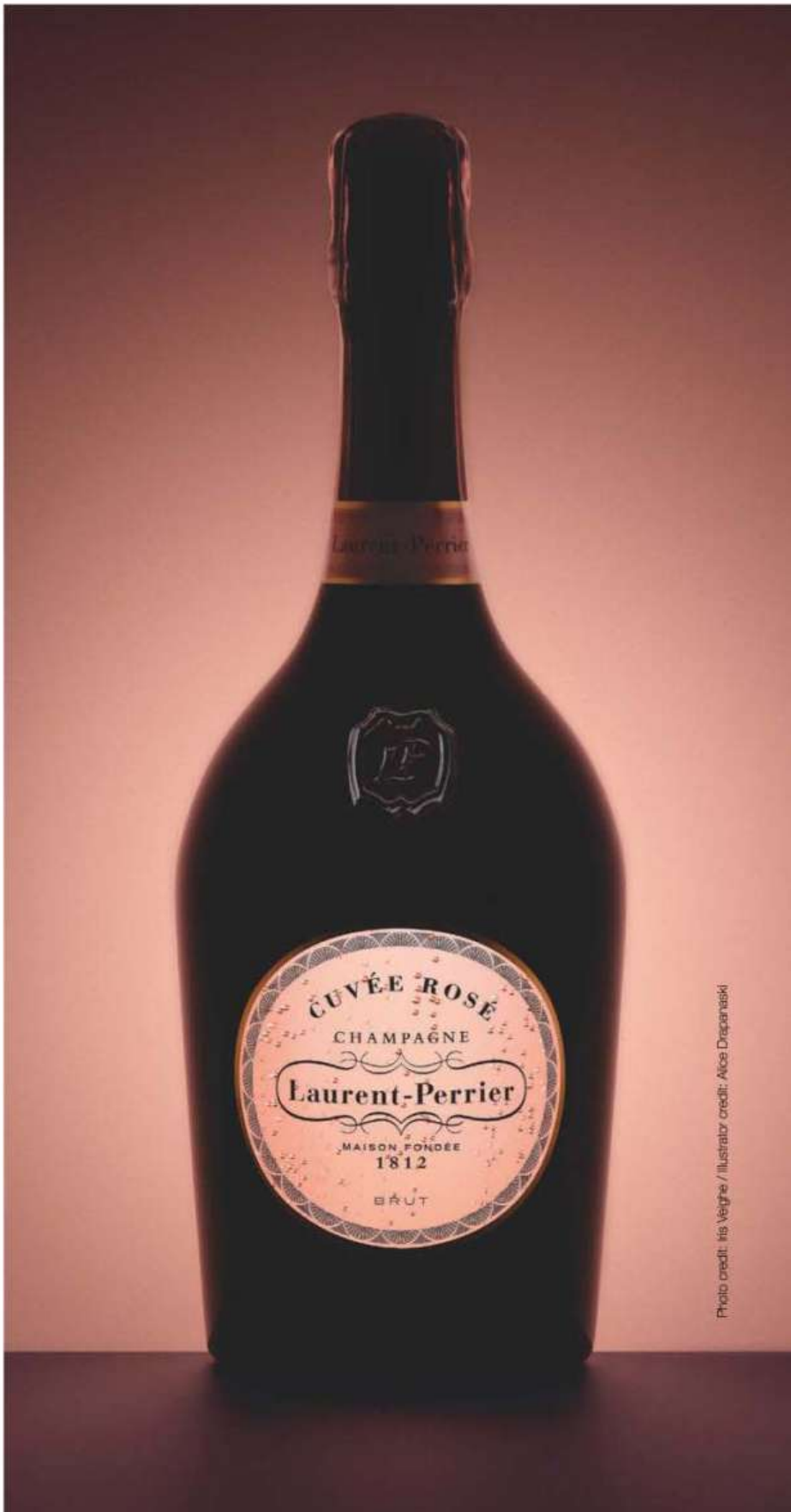


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FASHION

Photographed by ALEX BRAMALL



SANDY POWELL WEARS SILK & COTTON DRESS, £1,865, BY ROKSANDA, AT HARVEY NICHOLS. HAIR & MAKE-UP BY RACHEL JONES AT TERRI MANDUCA, USING GIORGIO ARMANI COSMETICS. STYLED BY SOPHIE GOODWIN

HERE'S LOOKING AT...
SANDY POWELL

As one of the world's most successful costume designers for film (you can't argue with three Oscars and 44 award nominations), Sandy Powell is used to the odd corset-related scandal. Like the time she had to wrestle Leonardo DiCaprio into a rubber one on the set of *The Aviator*: 'It made him remember to stand up straight.' Or the hoo-ha that ensued over Lily James's teeny-tiny waist in her ballgown for *Cinderella*, on which Sandy and her team spent 500 hours. 'Everyone went nuts about it, but she just has a small waist.' Sandy, 55, started designing young, making clothes for her dolls when she was growing up in Brixton, where she still lives; her first piece was a pair of hotpants. She studied performance design at Saint Martins but left halfway through when she got a job making costumes for dancer Lindsay Kemp's company, swiftly followed by Derek Jarman's film *Caravaggio*. Since then, she's created some of Hollywood's most memorable looks, from Judi Dench's Elizabeth I costume in *Shakespeare in Love* to Daniel Day-Lewis's top hat in Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*. Her next project is *Carol*, an adaptation of a Patricia Highsmith novel about a lesbian love affair in the Fifties, starring Cate Blanchett – one of Sandy's favourite people to dress: 'It's so nice to work with somebody with brains as well as beauty.' Just don't try to force Sandy into one of her costumes; she's not a fan of dressing up. 'I live in fear of being invited to a fancy-dress party. I'd rather stick to my vintage Gaultier.' ***LB***



RIHANNA IN GIAMBATTISTA VALLI HAUTE COUTURE



HAILEE STEINFELD IN ANDREW GN



LAURA BAILEY IN EMILIA WICKSTEAD



FELICITY JONES IN DIOR



PALOMA FAITH IN ARMANI PRIVÉ



CATE BLANCHETT IN GILES



ERIN O'CONNOR IN RALPH & RUSSO HAUTE COUTURE



MARION COTILLARD IN CHRISTIAN DIOR HAUTE COUTURE

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES

DON'T YOU WISH YOU'D WORN THAT?

MERINGUE BALLGOWNS

What's the point of a ballgown unless it's pouffy? There is no point. Not really. Because an evening dress becomes one only with an element of fantasy. That, and a distinct lack of versatility. It will have to earn its keep in one star-spangled night because it must be so memorable that you can't wear it again for 20 years. A real ballgown puts you on a pedestal, turns you into an untouchable fairytale creature. You don't sizzle in it. It should repel the cheap pass and activate the marriage proposal. And for a modern mood, go all out on the frock and utterly minimal on jewellery, hair and make-up. It's fanciful dress. Not fancy dress. It's world domination. Not Miss World. It's the stuff that dreams are made of. How do you know when you're in a truly ballsy gown? When you have to walk sideways through the door, that's how. ***AR***


ACQUA
DI
PARMA
COLONIA
ACQUA DI PARMA



SATIN DRESS, £4,995, BY **ANTONIO BERARDI**



SATIN DRESS, £695, BY **AMANDA WAKELEY**



SATIN JACKET, £3,050, BY **BALMAIN**



SATIN JACKET, £595, BY **GALVAN**, AT **MATCHESFASHION.COM**



SATIN TROUSERS, £3,050, BY **BALMAIN**



PIN-UP
'Is this what she means by "Lean in"?'



KENZO A/W15/16



BLUMARINE A/W15/16



SILK TOP, £1,650, BY **HERMES**



DIAMOND & PEARL WATCH WITH SATIN STRAP, £38,100, BY **BULGARI**



SILK SKIRT, £2,290, BY **HERMES**



SATIN DRESS, £1,685, BY **EMPORIO ARMANI**



SATIN CLUTCH, £1,480, BY **MANOLO BLAHNIK**



ISSA A/W15/16



NINA RICCI A/W15/16



SATIN HEELS, £430, BY **OLGANA**

Silk & satin

So, this Christmas, you could gleam. Not shine or shimmer or sparkle. Gleam. Like the precious, polished piece of perfection that you are. Because silk and satin are precious. They hark back to a time before neoprene, lycra and laser-cutting; to a time when we dressed for dinner and didn't publicly put out. Because you don't end up in a slippery, silken number by accident. It doesn't just happen. You make the choice to be slinky, to be noticed and, in this instance, to be now. ***AR***

PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK DEMARCHELIER. STILL-LIFES: PSC



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white gold and diamonds.

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SILK & SEQUIN JUMPSUIT, £35,140, BY **ETRO**



CLUTCH, £550, BY **JIMMY CHOO**



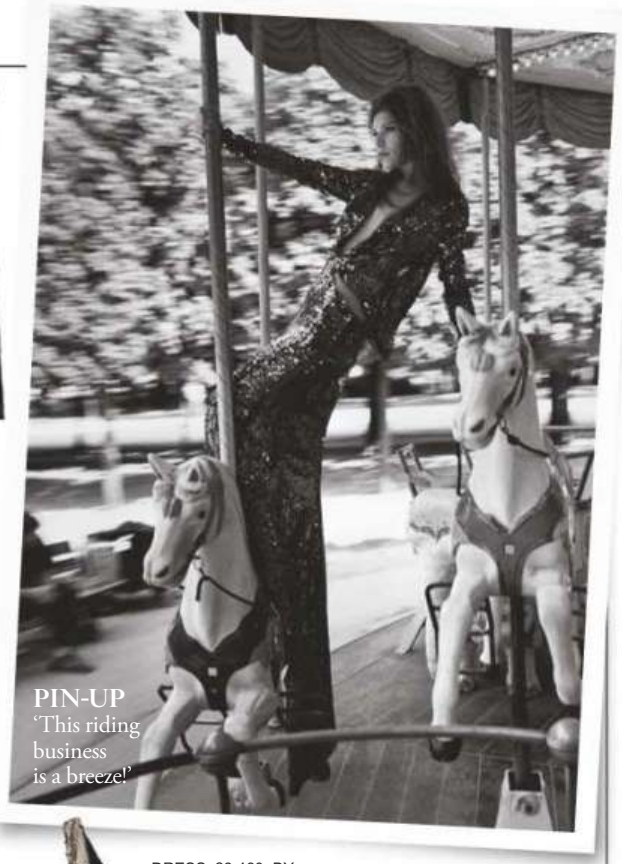
DRESS, £3,975, BY **EMILIO PUCCI**



DRESS, £10,820, BY **ANTONIO BERARDI**



DRESS, £225, BY **MICHAEL KORS**



PIN-UP
'This riding business is a breeze!'



TOM FORD A/W 15/16



LOUIS VUITTON A/W 15/16



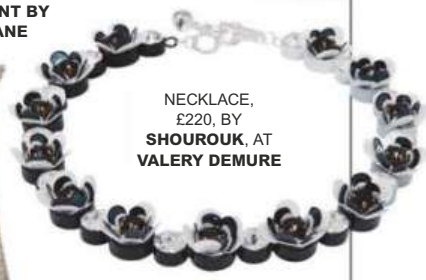
SATIN & SEQUIN DRESS, £3,950, BY **MATTHEW WILLIAMSON**



SILK & SEQUIN DRESS, £1,900, BY **GIAMBATTISTA VALLI**



DRESS, £8,460, BY **SAINT LAURENT BY HEDI SLIMANE**



NECKLACE, £220, BY **SHOUROUK**, AT **VALERY DEMURE**



DRESS, £2,240, BY **JENNY PACKHAM**



HEELS, £675, BY **ROCHAS**



RODARTE A/W 15/16

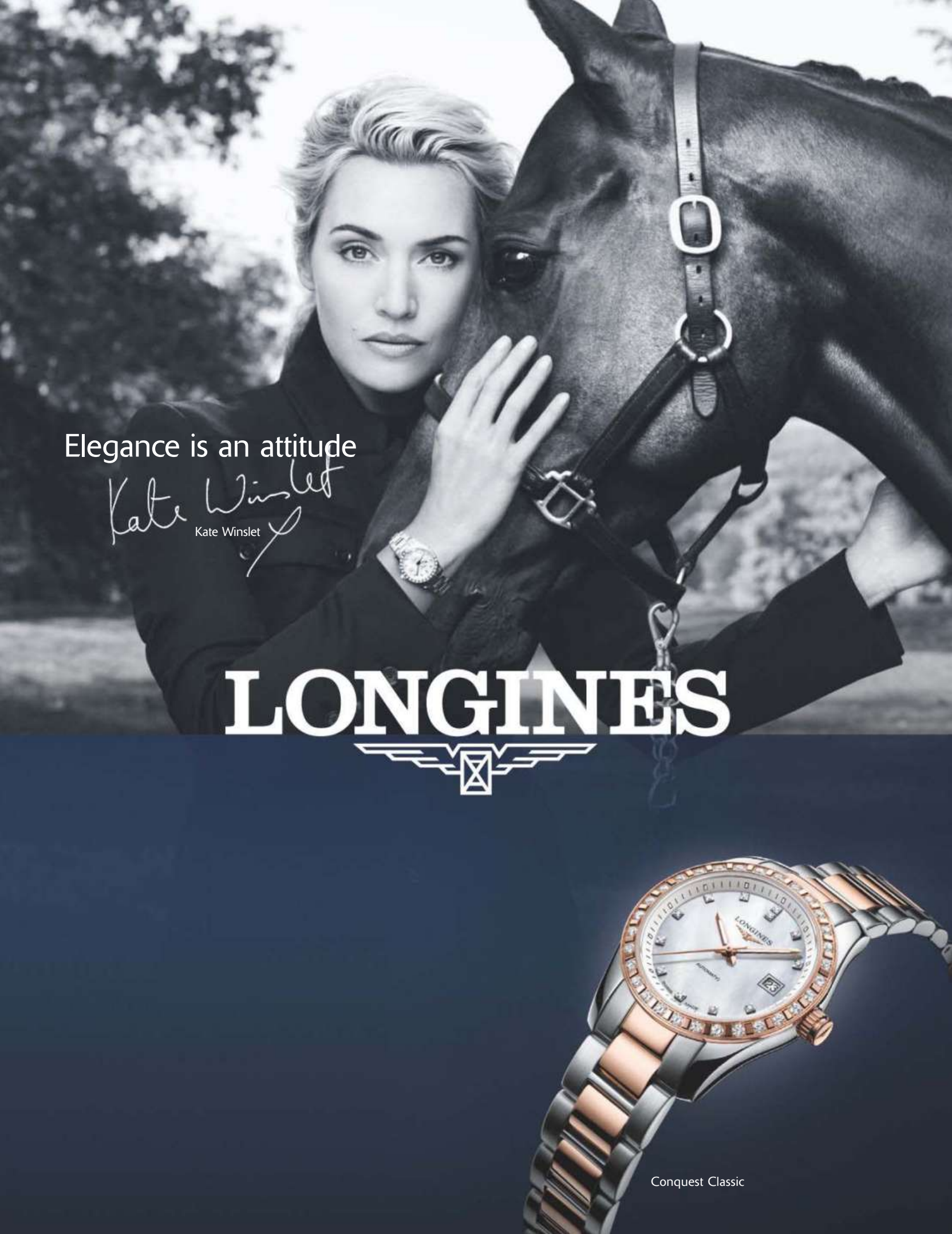


MARC JACOBS AW 15/16

Sequin dresses

Sequin dresses are clearly kind of BAM! But we are looking for patrician BAM rather than showgirl BAM. It's *Brideshead* over *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*. It's undone hair and no earrings. It's less cleavage and more intention. For now. Which means the most expensive-looking, crafted, meticulous sequin work. Autumnal Etro intricacy, Studio 54-style Rodarte stripes, architectural Giambattista Valli precision and brave Pucci graphic monochrome. This is actually quite daring stuff. Own it. ***AR***

PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK DEMARCHELIER. STILL-LIFES: PSC


Elegance is an attitude
Kate Winslet
Kate Winslet
LONGINES
Conquest Classic



SATIN, £600, BY **MANOLO BLAHNIK**



LEATHER, £485, BY **BIONDA CASTANA**



PATENT & GLITTER, £195, BY **LK BENNETT**



GLITTER, £595, BY **JIMMY CHOO**



COTTON, £445, BY **PAUL ANDREW**



LEATHER, £315, BY **EUGENIA KIM**



SUEDE, £495, BY **TABITHA SIMMONS**



LACE, POA, BY **DOLCE & GABBANA**

PIN-UP
'Oh, there you are!'





VELVET, £190, BY **FRENCH SOLE**



VELVET, £395, BY **CHARLOTTE OLYMPIA**



LEATHER, £225, BY **CHIARA FERRAGNI**



SILK, £615, BY **NICHOLAS KIRKWOOD**



LEATHER, £465, BY **RUPERT SANDERSON**

Cocktail flats

What could be more elegant, more confident, more polished and admirable than a flat shoe with a party get-up? But this particular card must be played carefully. Artfully. What do your legs say? Do they require a full trouser? A maxi? A micro? A knee-length? A beautiful flat can work with all of these moods. Perfectly. But not a ballet shoe, people. And not just leather. Why be sloppy when you can be opulent and feline and playful and rich? And you know why you'll be the sexiest bird in the room? Because you'll be the most comfortable bird in the room. Let the others totter while you conquer. ***AR***

PHOTOGRAPH: SEBASTIAN MADER/TRUNK ARCHIVE. STILL-LIFES: PSC



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covent garden 1-3 langley court, wc2 | *sloane square* 2 symons street, sw3
westfield london ariel way, w12

kate spade
NEW YORK



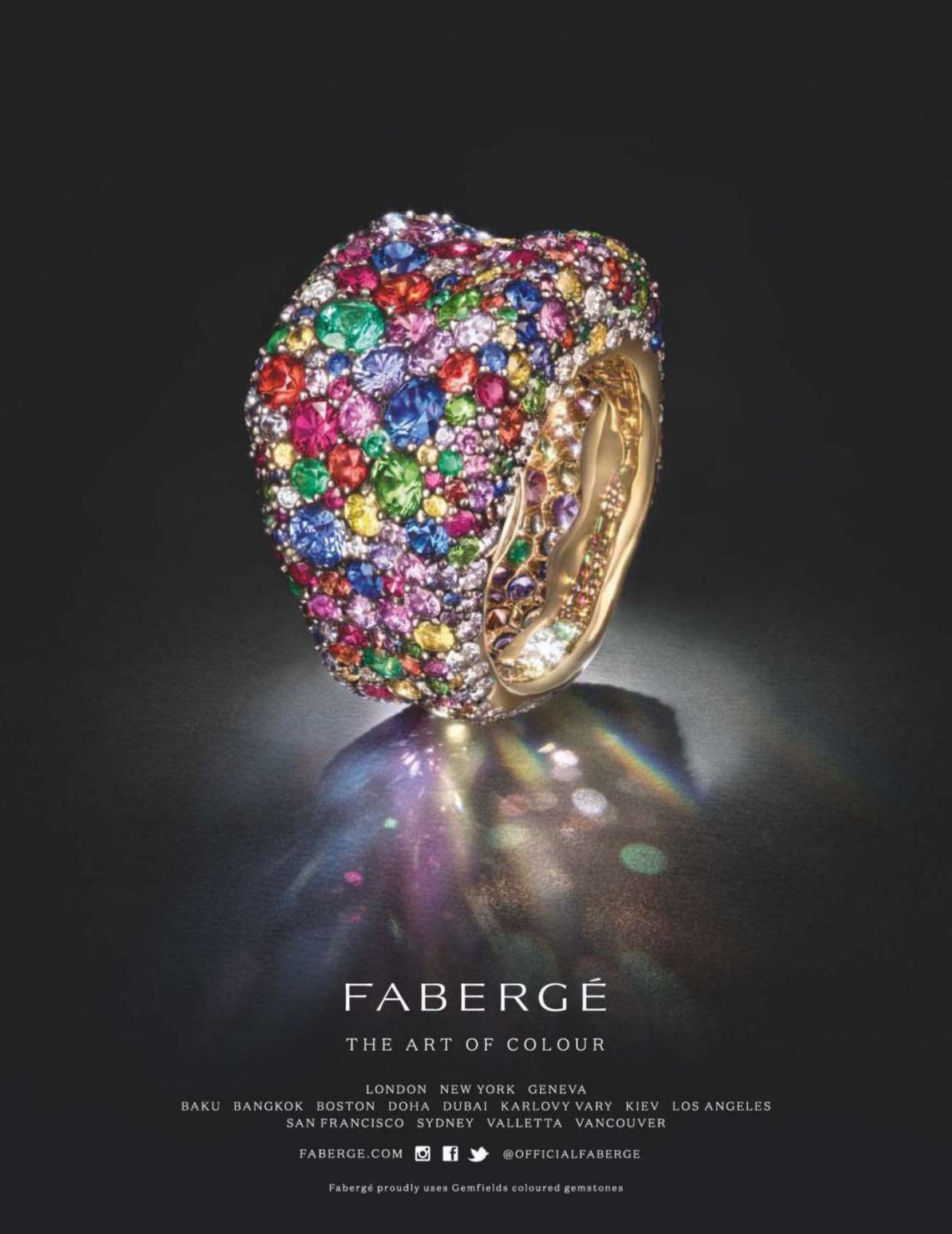
THE DRESS THAT THINKS IT'S GRAFFITI

Photographed by WILL SANDERS

SILK-JACQUARD GOWN, £9,350, BY **MOSCHINO**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR & MAKE-UP BY HILA KARMAND, USING BUMBLE AND BUMBLE & STILA. MODEL, TESSA WESTERHOF AT WILHELMINA MODELS. PROPS AND LOCATION BY THEMETRADERS (THEMETRADERS.COM; ENQUIRIES@THEMETRADERS.COM). STYLED BY AILSA MILLER


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SNOWFLAKES, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, £47,600, BY **WILLIAM & SON**

PLATINUM, DIAMOND, & SAPPHIRE EARRINGS, POA, BY **HARRY WINSTON**. PLATINUM & DIAMOND EARRINGS, POA, BY **JESSICA McCORMACK**

WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRING (*CENTRE*; ONE OF PAIR), POA, BY **CHANEL**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, POA, BY **BOUCHERON**

Photographed by **MATTHEW SHAVE**

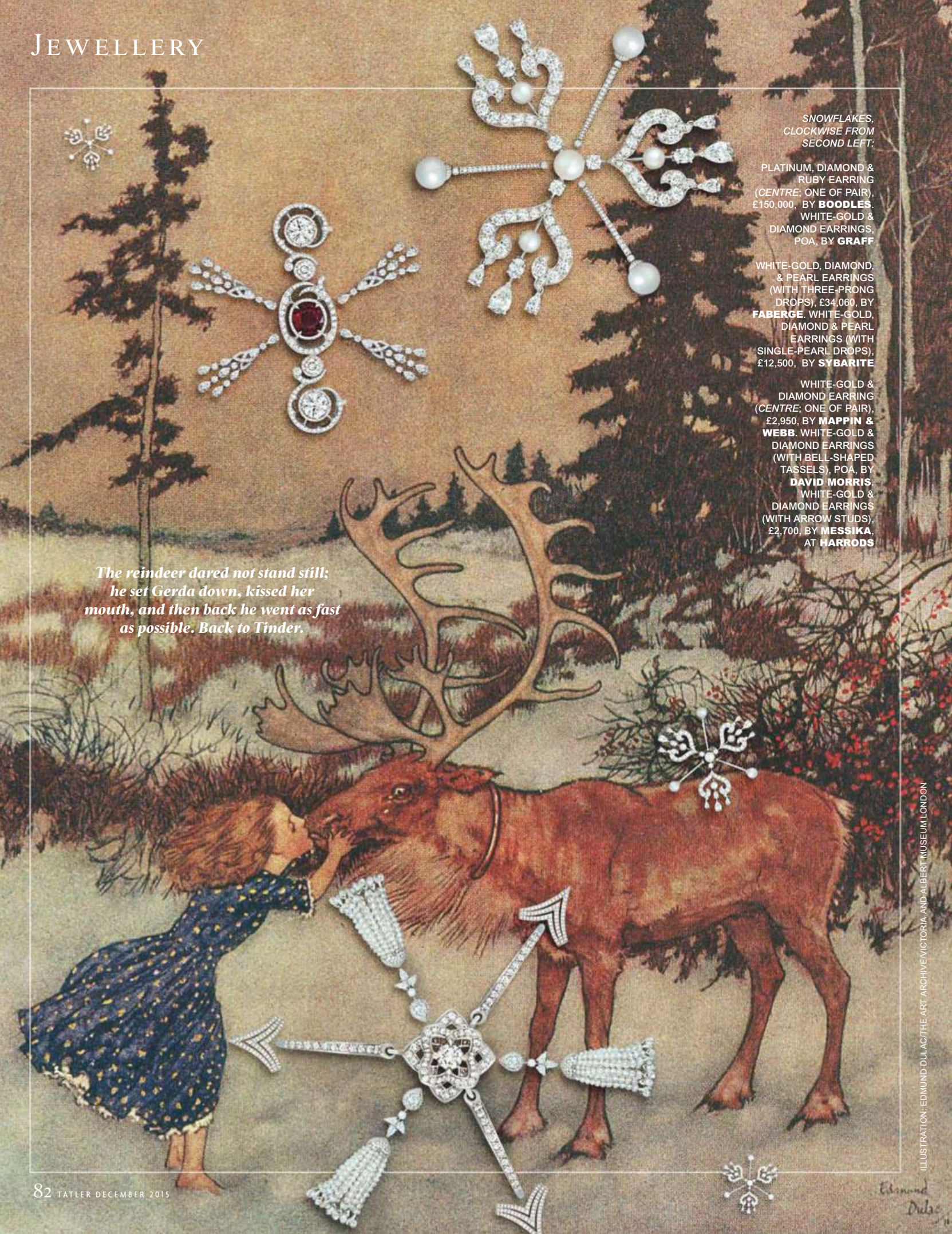
She was so beautiful and delicate, but she was of ice, of dazzling, sparkling ice. (Don't worry – she was a total bore at dinner parties.)

Fairytale DIAMONDS

…transformed into snowflakes, by the ice queen, because she's mean like that

Edited by **CHARLIE BOYD**

ILLUSTRATION: EDMUND DULAC/BRIDGEMAN ART/CHRISTIE'S IMAGES



SNOWFLAKES, CLOCKWISE FROM SECOND LEFT:

PLATINUM, DIAMOND & RUBY EARRING (*CENTRE*; ONE OF PAIR), £150,000, BY **BOODLES**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, POA, BY **GRAFF**

WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND, & PEARL EARRINGS (WITH THREE-PRONG DROPS), £34,060, BY **FABERGE**. WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND & PEARL EARRINGS (WITH SINGLE-PEARL DROPS), £12,500, BY **SYBARITE**

WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRING (*CENTRE*; ONE OF PAIR), £2,950, BY **MAPPIN & WEBB**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS (WITH BELL-SHAPED TASSELS), POA, BY **DAVID MORRIS**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS (WITH ARROW STUDS), £2,700, BY **MESSIKA**, AT **HARRODS**

The reindeer dared not stand still; he set Gerda down, kissed her mouth, and then back he went as fast as possible. Back to Tinder.

ILLUSTRATION: EDMUND DULAC/THE ART ARCHIVE/VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM LONDON



HAPPY SPORT

Chopard



SNOWFLAKES, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

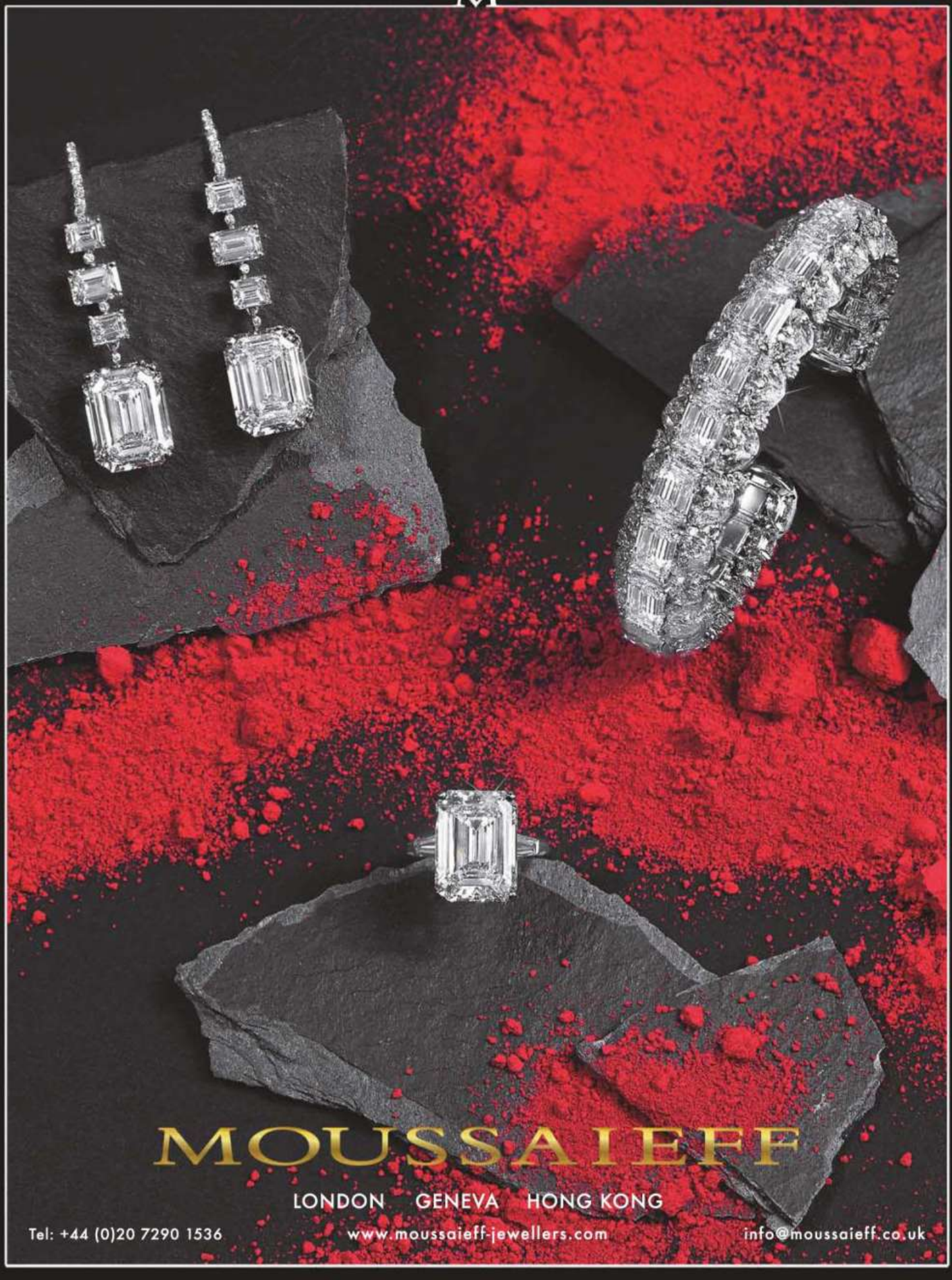
WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND & SAPPHIRE EARRINGS, POA, BY **BULGARI**. PLATINUM & DIAMOND EARRINGS, £12,300, BY **TIFFANY**

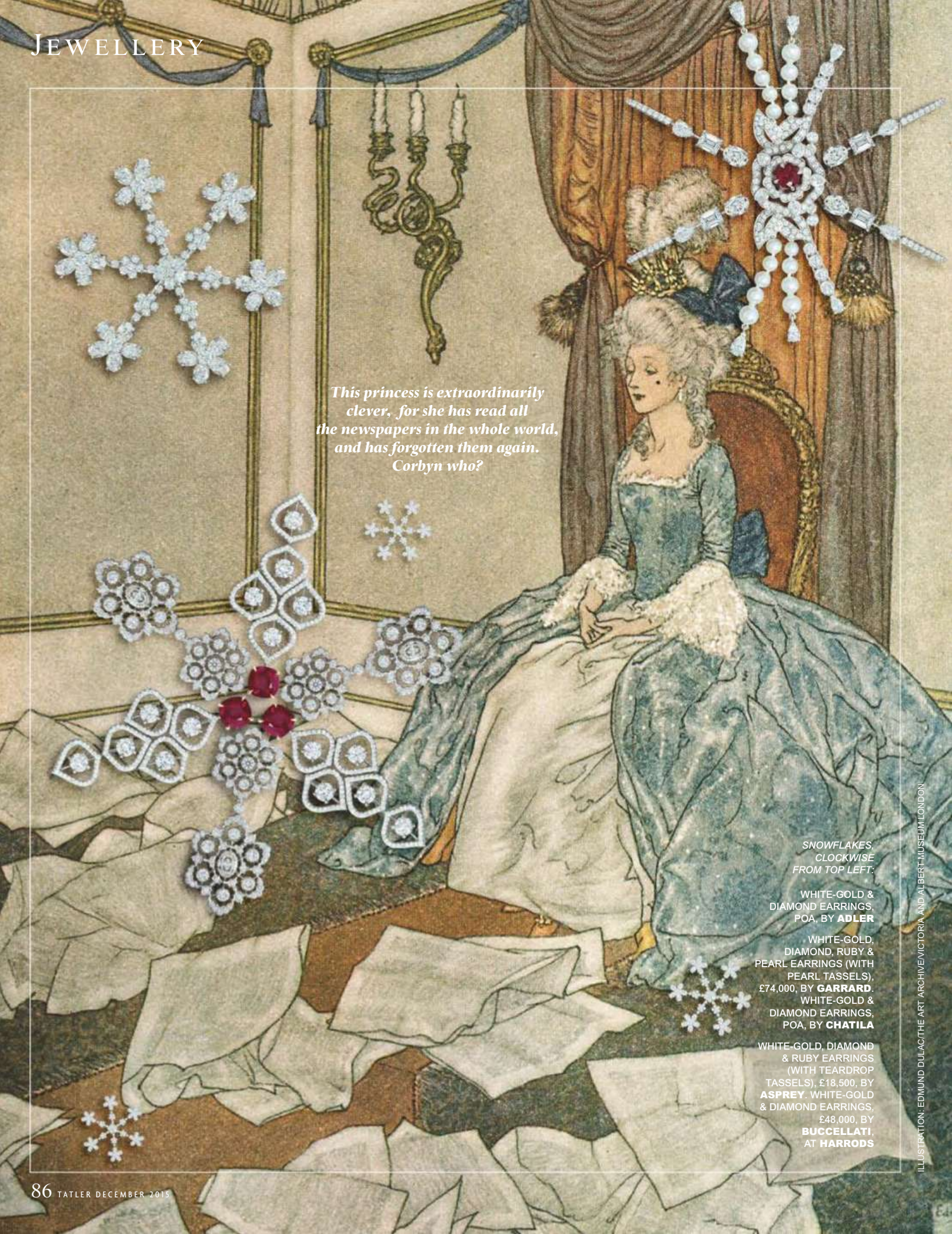
WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND & AVENTURINE EARRINGS (WITH CENTREPIECE), POA, BY **DE BEERS**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, £7600, BY **LOUIS VUITTON**

ROSE-GOLD, RHODIUM-PLATED SILVER & DIAMOND RING (*CENTRE*), £31,800, BY **POMELLATO**. PLATINUM & DIAMOND EARRINGS, POA, BY **CARTIER**

The carriage shone like a torch, and it dazzled the eyes of the robbers. 'Tis gold! Tis gold!' they cried, 'and don't forget the £31,800 ring by Pomellato either.'

ILLUSTRATION: EDMUND DULAC/THE ART ARCHIVE/VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM LONDON


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This princess is extraordinarily clever, for she has read all the newspapers in the whole world, and has forgotten them again. Corbyn who?

SNOWFLAKES, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, POA, BY **ADLER**

WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND, RUBY & PEARL EARRINGS (WITH PEARL TASSELS), £74,000, BY **GARRARD**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, POA, BY **CHATILA**

WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND & RUBY EARRINGS (WITH TEARDROP TASSELS), £18,500, BY **ASPREY**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, £48,000, BY **BUCCELLATI**, AT **HARRODS**

ILLUSTRATION: EDMUND DULAC/THE ART ARCHIVE/VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM LONDON

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In the middle of the empty, endless hall of snow was a frozen lake; in the middle of this lake sat the Snow Queen. Bloody English summers...

SNOWFLAKES, CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT:

WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND RING (*CENTRE*), £55,000, BY **DIOR JOAILLERIE**. LOTUS-SHAPED WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, £11,700, BY **VAN CLEEF & ARPELS**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, £73,700, BY **DE GRISOGONO**.

WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND RING (*CENTRE*), POA, BY **CHOPARD**. WHITE-GOLD, TITANIUM & DIAMOND EARRINGS, POA, BY **GLENN SPIRO**

WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND & RUBY RING (TWO SHOWN), POA, BY **BOGHOSSIAN**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND EARRINGS, £240,000, BY **PIAGET**. PLATINUM & WHITE-, GREEN- & NATURAL-COLOURED-DIAMOND SINGLE PENDANT FROM A NECKLACE, £25,000, BY **HIRSH LONDON**.

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. ILLUSTRATION: EDMUND DULAC/THE ART ARCHIVE/VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM LONDON

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THIS PAGE, *RIGHT*, MODEL WEARS GOLD LACE BOTANIQUE EARRINGS, £349. GOLD LACE BOTANIQUE PENDANT (£269) WITH GOLD CHAIN (£249). GOLD CHARM BRACELET (£995) WITH GOLD CHARMS, FROM £285. GOLD LACE BOTANIQUE RINGS, £349 EACH. GOLD AND STERLING-SILVER STACKING RINGS, FROM £70. SILK-SATIN DRESS (JUST SEEN), BY DAY BIRGER ET MIKKELSEN, £320

OPPOSITE PAGE, *LEFT*, MODEL WEARS STERLING-SILVER ANGEL WING NECKLACE WITH CUBIC ZIRCONIA, £115. STERLING-SILVER TIMELESS ELEGANCE EARRINGS, £55. STERLING-SILVER CHARMS (IN HAIR), FROM £25. SEQUIN TOP (JUST SEEN) BY CHARLIE BREAR, £425

OPPOSITE PAGE, *RIGHT*, MODEL WEARS STERLING-SILVER BOW PEARL EARRINGS, £65. STERLING-SILVER BOW PEARL NECKLACE, £85. STERLING-SILVER CHARM BRACELET AND BANGLE (£55 EACH) WITH STERLING-SILVER AND GOLD CHARMS, FROM £45. STERLING-SILVER BOW PEARL RINGS, £50 EACH. STERLING-SILVER LUMINOUS LEAVES PEARL RING, £60. STERLING-SILVER CRYSTALLISED RING, £70. STERLING-SILVER CHARM BRACELET (IN HAIR), £75. LAME DRESS (JUST SEEN) BY ALICE & OLIVIA, £325

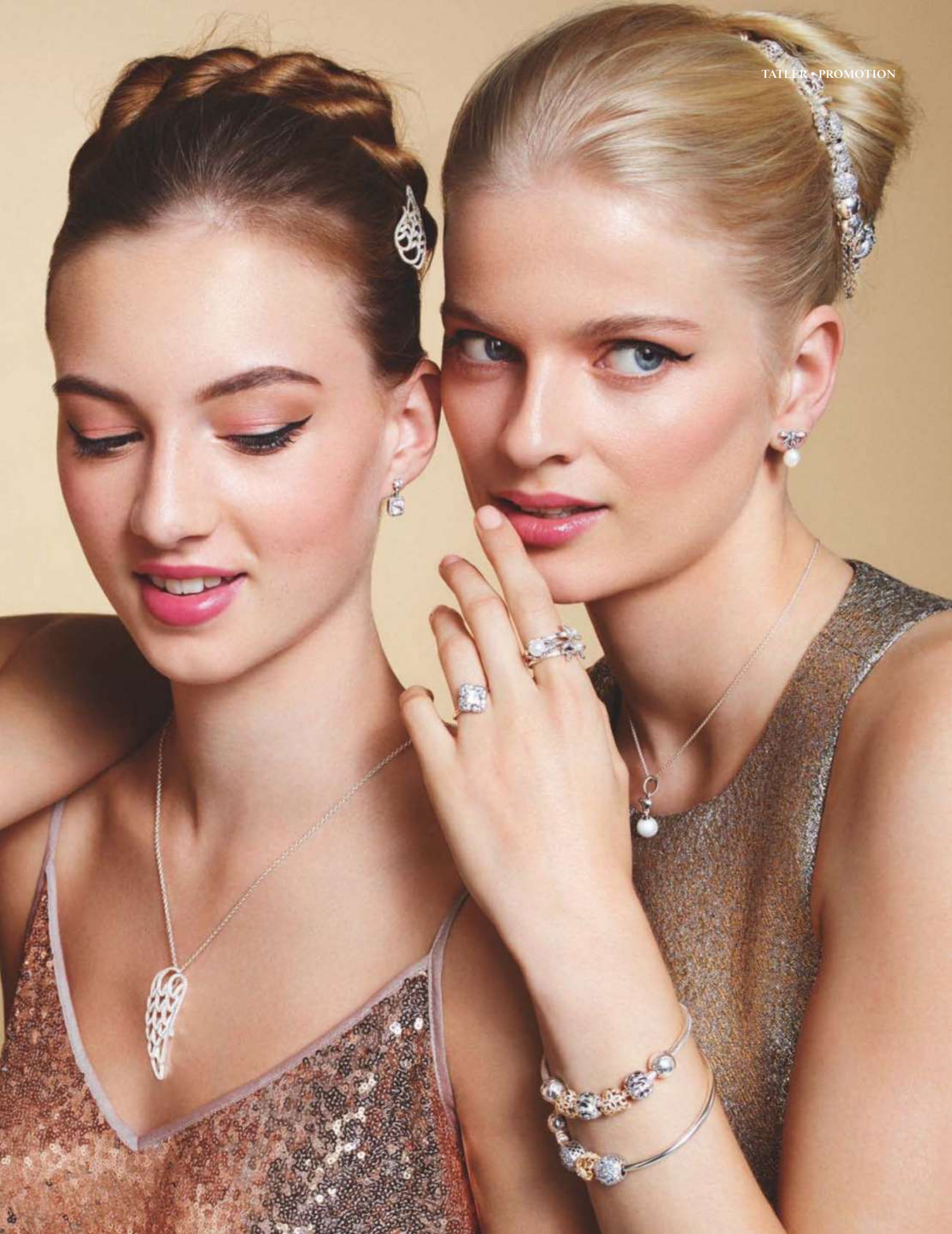
MAKE-UP BY JAIMEE THOMAS
HAIR BY HEATH MASSI
NAILS BY
SOPHIE HARRIS- GREENSLADE

FASHION STYLED BY
AILSA MILLER

CHINESE WHISPERS

Sshhh....can you keep a style secret? Pandora have the twinkliest, sparkliest, most beautiful jewellery around

Photographed by Matthew Shave



Mariella Tandy rounds up the month's most splendid must-haves

THE IT LIST



BOYS BOYS BOYS

This is a photo of **Chanel**'s first Deauville boutique – and now Chanel is about to open its new boutique on New Bond Street. Tidings of great joy for jewellery lovers. Resist this BOY.FRIEND watch, *left*, if you dare. *chanel.com*



LIMITED-EDITION BOY.FRIEND WATCH, £61,000, BY **CHANEL**



£926, BY **BARRIE**

Winter means one thing: cashmere. There's no such thing as too much of the stuff, so we suggest you start building your new collection with the Viber Argyll round-neck pullover from **Barrie**. Pure patterned perfection. *matchesfashion.com*



£1,750, BY **JIMMY CHOO**

GETTING WARMER

Do not attempt the slopes this winter without a pair of Jimmy Choos. 'But we can't trudge through snow in heels,' we hear you saying anxiously. No, you can't – and nor would we expect you to. That is why we are bestowing the gift of **Jimmy Choo** moon boots upon you. You. Are. Welcome. *jimmychoo.com*



MELLOW YELLOW

The **Dorchester** flings open the doors of its new Parcafé this autumn, sending its messengers of bliss (the yellow cups) out onto the streets of London. Find it by the Ballroom on Park Lane. *dorchestercollection.com*

Acqua di Parma, how do we love thee? Let us count the ways. Your infinitely smart packaging, for starters. Especially when it contains this divine candle, £95, from the Murano collection. Heaven. *harrods.com*



CANDLE, £95, BY **ACQUA DI PARMA**

*Listen up, all you singletons. Don't spend Christmas at home in your single bed. Spend it with someone that luxury matchmaking service **Gray & Farrar** set you up with (grayandfarrar.com).*

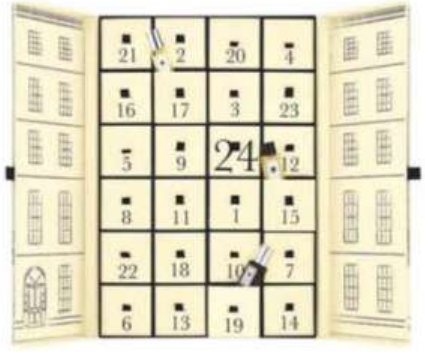


POA, BY **GRAFF**

It's a diamond flower brooch, by **Graff**. But hang on – with a few little clicks, it's also a pair of earrings! We do love it when sparklers are this accommodating. *graffdiamonds.com*

Fancy a Christmas shopping weekend? On 5 and 6 December, Cadogan Estates will bring the streets around Sloane Square to life with twinkling lights, performers and a gift market. How jolly! (see inchelsea.co.uk).

£260, BY
JO MALONE



A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING...

Wait. What? There's a **Jo Malone** advent calendar that gives you a different product every day? Honestly, who cares about plastic-tasting chocs or pictures of robins when this exists in the world? Get into the spirit of Christmas and buy yourself one immediately. *jomalone.com*



Super-slinky

The **Bulgari** Serpenti collection loves nothing more than to wrap itself around famous film stars – and now it's your turn. We'd like to kick off this lifelong love affair with the Bulgari Enamel Serpenti watch, which will coil round your wrist and steal your heart. *bulgari.com*



WATCH,
POA, BY
BULGARI

PURE ALLURE

You know that thing when you buy a gift for someone and then you realise there is no way you can give something so gorgeous away? Learn more about this hellish struggle with **Marc Jacobs**' brand-new Decadence fragrance. *houseoffraser.com*

£69 FOR 50ML, BY
MARC JACOBS



BACK TO BLACK

Fix up your hair... and your self-image



£99, BY
GHD

THE **GHD** HAIR HEROES ARE NOW DOING A HAIRDRYER – ITS IONIC TECHNOLOGY REDUCES ANNOYING FRIZZ AND IT DRIES YOUR HAIR IN A FLASH. ULTRA-POWERFUL. *GHD.COM*

CELEBRATE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF **CANON**'S EOS 5D SERIES BY TAKING 50-MEGAPIXEL SELFIES WITH THEIR LATEST STROKE OF GENIUS. *CANON.CO.UK*



FROM £3,000, BY
CANON



Land Rover Defender *fans – the days of this off-road colossus are numbered as production enters its final stages. Sob! Make sure you get your hands on the two-millionth example, which will be auctioned at Bonhams on 16 December. Register your interest now. Time is of the essence! landrover.com*

TRIPLE TIPPLE

Down the hatch...



£70, BY
LAURENT-PERRIER

1 OH LOOK, THAT BIRDCAGE HAS A BOTTLE OF **LAURENT-PERRIER** CUVEE ROSE IN IT. THAT MUST BE WHY THEY CALL IT THE LAURENT-PERRIER BIRDCAGE. NOUS ADORONS. *JOHNLEWIS.COM*



£36, BY
BELUGA

2 KNOW AN EXCELLENT VODKA BY ITS CAPACITY TO BE DRUNK ICE-COLD AND NEAT – SUCH IS THE RUSSIAN WAY. **BELUGA** RISES TO THE CHALLENGE. *VODKA-BELUGA.COM*



3 THEY SHOULD HAVE CALLED THIS 1983 **BALBLAIR** WHISKY 'YUM'. BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL EXCLAIM EVERY TIME YOU TAKE A SIP. IT'S MATURED IN LOVELY OAK BARRELS. *BALBLAIR.COM* □

£205, BY **BALBLAIR**

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BAILEY

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TATLER'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK

*Tibbs Jenkins lines up the 116 most shaggable single humans on Planet Tatler**

2016



*ON PLANET TATLER, 'SINGLE' MEANS UNMARRIED OR SEPARATED AT THE TIME OF WRITING.
PHOTOGRAPHS: DOMINIC O'NEILL, REX FEATURES, SPLASH, ALAN DAVIDSON, NICO MORGAN, GETTY IMAGES

BOYS

A



ARKADIY ABRAMOVICH
20s

His name derives from the Greek for 'bear' and Roman's son is already a big beast in the City with his own company, ARA Capital. Just as fierce when it comes to Chelsea FC – he's often seen pumping his fists on the edge of the pitch.



ROBIN ARORA
30s

Terrific eyebrows and a self-made millionaire by the time he was in his late 20s, thanks to a retail chain he overhauled with his two brothers. What's not to love?



EARL OF ARUNDEL
20s

Adrenalin may appear to be the future Duke of Norfolk's fuel – Henry is an F3 driver, avid skier and mountain climber – but it's actually Roger Federer's mental agility that this economics graduate and tennis nut admires most. Go for a five-setter with him.

B



MARQUESS OF BLANDFORD
20s

Madly handsome Old Harrovian who is damn good with a polo stick, studying at UCL and v. v. loyal (to Sunderland AFC).



ARTHUR DE BORMAN
30s

Hip, bearded east London production designer who has worked with the likes of Guinness, Nike and Preen. His CV may sound edgy, but he's got a soft spot: he loves Fat Cat, his furry friend.



WILL BOWLBY
20s

Will's the cute chap knocking out samphire pakoras at Pop Brixton's Indian restaurant, Kricket. (FYI, he can spell.) He's busy behind the stove and has two protective big sisters, so your best chance is to pop him on your food order – for pudding.



MARQUESS OF BOWMONT AND CESSFORD
30s

The Duke of Roxburghe's heir is a dapper dresser and will take you for a spin in one of his fast cars if you ask nicely. But he might love his black Labrador more than you.



OSCAR BURNETT
20s

National Portrait Gallery exhibitor who isn't half nifty on the guitar. The poor chap's a bit sad over the imminent closure of the Troubadour in Earls Court. Make him smile.

C



HENRY CAVILL
30s

SUPERMAN.



NICK VON CHRISTIERSON
30s

Nick created the BabyBundle app, which monitors all things baby. Sadly, that is the only coochie-coo thing about him, as proved by his 'Drags and Dungeons'-themed 30th, where he looked fetching in fishnet tights. He once gallantly sent a girl a whole heap of locusts.



WILLIAM ROPER-CURZON
30s

Students of his painting courses at Arniano pay just for his company and witty banter. He's highly sought after at weekends in Rome, California and Scotland; home is a hideaway in Hampshire. If he mimics you, he likes you.

D



LORD DOWNPATRICK
20s

Edward always travels with black tie. It's not that this investment banker is stuffy – it's just the way he was brought up. His father, the Earl of St Andrews, does the same, as did his grandpa, the Duke of Kent. A word of warning – he prefers clothes not to be too loud and ostentatious, as he doesn't like to be distracted from looking at your face.



E



IDRIS ELBA
40s

Those James Bond rumours just won't quit, but we'd have him either way. He acts, he DJs, and this year he also broke a UK land-speed record driving a Bentley along a Welsh beach. Phwoarrrrr.

F



ARCHIE FAULKS
20s

This Old Pauline singer-songwriter goes by the stage name Tenterhook and almost drove his uncle Sebastian mad by singing endless Abba songs to him when little. He loves rollerblading and ice cream.



MAX FRASER
30s

He's a hedgefunder who has a thing for reggae and, in his own words, 'I cook, I clean, I can play the fool, and I'm also out a lot.' You can persuade him to stay in. ▷

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G



CONRAD GAMBLE
30s

A quirky poet with an equally quirky eye – his left one resembles a cat's (due to a leaked retina, apparently). Likes late nights and early mornings. Not necessarily combined.



EARL OF GLAMORGAN
20s

Bobby has an impressive brain – the Bristol economics graduate and future Duke of Beaufort (he's second in line) works for Crispin Odey – and was briefly a tennis coach. Also looks good dressed as a penguin.



JACK GUINNESS



NICK GRIMSHAW
30s

Oh Grimmy, our nation's morning glory, or Saturday-night treat – and a big fan of a tuna toastie. Scrummy.



EARL GROSVENOR
20s

Hugh has a thing for neon, loves dancing, and has three sisters to keep him in check. Oh, and he's also known as the (incredibly private) Prince of London – as the only son of the Duke of Westminster, he is set to inherit much of the City, and a fair slice of Cheshire too.



JACK GUINNESS
30s

This guy understands feelings. He still cries at *Titanic* and sometimes, late at night, wonders why there couldn't have been more rescue boats. He also shares his spaghetti with his chihuahua, Snowy (see back page of this issue).



MALACHY GUINNESS
20s

A series of accidents have left this dashing tutor hobbling in an elaborate metal brace (temporarily). Not that that stops him – his Shepherd's Bush pad is a 24-hour party mansion.





RORY GUINNESS
30s

Tall, dark, handsome... this groovy Jesus lookalike could perhaps seem intimidating. Happily, he's not – he once had to shout for help from customers in the OKA shop over the road after getting trapped in his steam room. Things to note: he doesn't like dolphins and drives a Subaru. Still hot, though.



H



CHARLIE HANBURY
20s

The polo-playing four-goaler and Cartier Queen's Cup winner isn't averse to stripping off – it's his party trick. Ply him with a Skinny Bitch so he'll show you his impressive guns.



PRINCE HARRY
30s

OK, so he's a prince, but he's also just a boy who happens to like blondes, brunettes and Bunga Bunga (the bar, that is). Also into magic tricks.



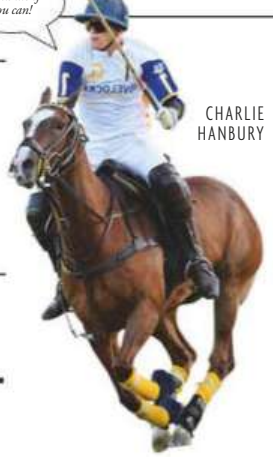
FRANK HESKETH
20s

He may have pierced his eyebrow, but fortunately it didn't puncture his brain – he got a First in philosophy from Manchester University this year.



ED HOLCROFT
20s

Hugh Grant-handsome, singled out for stardom by Harvey Weinstein and loved by blondes, this Old Amplefordian actor is one to ogle. Also plays seductive piano.



CHARLIE HANBURY

J



DAVID JACKSON
20s

First, an Oxford physics scholar, then a captain of the Queen's Royal Hussars and now a boy-about-town. He likes fancy dress and bad jokes, and spends a lot of time chez his sister, Viscountess Glenapp. Take him off her hands.

K



JOHNNIE KERR
20s

Wit, charm, manners – he's got 'em all. Not to mention an impeccable lineage: his uncle is the Marquess of Lothian and one day he'll inherit Melbourne Hall, an exquisite Derbyshire stately. Loves highbrow chat and late-night red wine. ▷

PHOTOGRAPHS: PRESS ASSOCIATION, REX FEATURES, DOMINIC O'NEILL, TONY RAMIREZ, HUGO BURNAND, GETTY IMAGES, WIREIMAGE

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2016

L



ARTHUR LANDON
30s

Hampshire's hottest filmmaker is also super-buff – he loves boxing. In all other ways he's a big softie and has been known to leave Nurofen and water by girls' beds, like a hangover tooth fairy.



EDLEY NAYLOR-LEYLAND
20s

Good luck pinning down the third of the four Naylor-Leyland brothers – he's a travel junkie. When in England, catch him at Milton or Nantclwyd Hall, his family homes, or boning up on geo-engineering at UCL.

M



ARTHUR McCALMONT
30s

Something of a property pimp and the most wanted holiday companion in town, Arthur is a strong swimmer who likes to warm up with forward lunges before he dives in. And he's not averse to the other sort of lunge – if you initiate it, he's bound to reciprocate. It's only polite.



EARL OF MEDINA
20s

Not to be confused with his stepbrother Harry Wentworth-Stanley (see next page), though they are both devilishly handsome. This Harry, however, can fly – not literally – but he does have his pilot's licence. Ask him to play co-pilot?



GARRETT MOORE
30s

Loulou's would be nothing without Garrett, Robin Birley's irrepressible 'cool consultant'. He loves fancy dress and giving dinners, and is everyone's favourite immersive-event planner, gadding from Venice to Montenegro, to wherever the party is at. A buzzing whirlwind of FUN. Very good with his hands... when he tinkers on the piano.



XAN MORGAN
30s

After helping with the Tibetan government in exile, Xan now works in pioneering reusable water. He used to be heavily into trance music and once managed to fit nine matchsticks through his pierced ear.



SIMON MORRISON
30s

Speedy on a motorbike, happy on a ramble and just as content napping, Simon divides his time between Dorset and Latimer Road, and believes in earning your right to a drink through, say, a treacherous bike ride to the pub.



N



VISCOUNT NEWPORT
30s

Shooting, stalking... Ibiza? Alex is that kind of guy. It took him a week to recover from Glasto, because he really knows how to have a good time. He's also an incredibly generous host, because he never likes the fun to end.



FRANÇOIS O'NEILL
30s

Having closed the Brompton Bar and Grill, Lord Rathcavan's half-Irish, half-French son has bitten into a new project – the Argentinian Casa Cruz restaurant in Notting Hill. He's most at home in a tweek waistcoat.

P



JACK PILKINGTON
20s

As a psychology student, Jack learnt a lot about people: how to whip them up – not just dancing at Glastonbury, but getting steamy as he toiled at the Soho House Berlin Store Kitchen. Saucy.

R



JAMIE REUBEN
20s

This princeling – his father is one half of the property-mogul Reuben Brothers – works in investment, covering all the bases, from senior director at QPR to board member at 5HS. Win him over with cocktails.

S



ANANT SHARMA
20s

He plays something of an unpredictable mash when he gets on the decks, yet this OE manages to be a master of the universe when it comes to running his branding agency, Matter of Form. Defining moment? Modelling for Pizza Express.



LORD SETTRINGTON
20s

Sure, one day Charlie will inherit his grandfather's title, the Duke of Richmond. But for now the Oxford student is happy playing with cars – which is no surprise, seeing as his father, the Earl of March and Kinrara, founded the Goodwood Festival of Speed. He's weirdly obsessed with (toy) monkeys, his crew is called the Monkey Massive and he goes bananas for a bowl of Coco Pops. ▷

PHOTOGRAPHS: DOMINIC O'NEILL, WIREIMAGE, GETTY IMAGES, ALAN DAVIDSON, STUDIOKIX.COM


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2016

GIRLS



HARRY WENTWORTH-STANLEY
20s

Harry's a chartered surveyor, but don't let that put you off this six-foot-four stack of polo-playing goodness. He's blond and fluent in Spanish. Olé!



SAM PAGET STEAVENSON
20s

Aka the Rum Runner. Sam was behind the alcoholic creations at the recent Hilton-Rothschild extravaganza. He mixes up cocktails for a career and tests out new concoctions in his spare time. Fun.



HUGO TAYLOR



FREDDIE STREETER
20s

With a hint of a *Twilight* vampire about him – in the hot way, not the bloodsucking kinda vibe – this financier can be spotted dancing at Wilderness. But mainly you'll find him prowling London's 'Streeeeeeeeeetz' – and that is indeed what they call him.



HUGO TAYLOR
20s

He moved on from *Made in Chelsea* (phew) and now designs hip shades for his brand Taylor Morris. He may only have heard of Burning Man for the first time this year, but couldn't be lured so far from SW – instead he chose to live it large at Drifters Festival on Osea Island. #BabySteps.



STEVIE THOMAS
20s

This carnival-loving six-footer owns the Rum Kitchen in both Notting Hill and Soho. He thanked Glastonbury earlier this year for showing him the way and being a 'pool of inspiration'.



ADWOA ABOAH
20s

Adwoa had to study geisha girls recently as a part of her acting degree at Brunel, and says she felt man-like in comparison: hah – what pish! Anyone who has seen this Ghanaian/English model dance, be it at carnival, Ibiza or Portobello's Boom Burger on a Friday night, knows she's got ladylike moves. Word of warning: Cara D is your competition. The pair have matching half-heart tattoos.



HARRIET AGNEW
30s

Really, really likes haggis balls, so much so it's become her nickname. Though some call her Trace – as in Emin – due to her talking out of the side of her mouth. But neither nickname suits her serious side: she is the City correspondent at the *Financial Times*. And nor do they hint at this Scot's amazing bod (er, cough, tits).



FLORRIE ARNOLD
20s

Pretty-as-a-peach pop star Florrie has been playing drums since she was seven. Which means strong biceps – you don't want to find out what she can do with them... or do you?



SOFIA BARCLAY
20s

Invite her to the theatre, but this Westminster-educated actress may well steal the show with her bouncy hair and zumba-tweaked body. Thankfully, she's not as retiring as her grandfather and great-uncle, *Telegraph* owners the Barclay bros.



LOUISA BARNETT
20s

She helped start the Hands Up Foundation, which raises money for Syrian aid. She also makes a mean marmalade – you really should ask to try some for breakfast.



CRESSIDA BONAS
20s

The best body in London, stupendous hair and utterly charming to boot. No wonder everyone's after Cressy. Relationships come second to acting at the moment, though.



MILLIE BRADY
20s

Actress Millie bakes excellent banana bread – it only took her three years to perfect the recipe. A good person to have around should the apocalypse hit: she learnt how to battle the undead in *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.



ALEXA CARLSON
20s

Hong Kong-born, Notting Hill-based Alexa works for Burberry, but she's also a RADA-trained actress. Her biggest break so far? Appearing in *Chalet Girl* with Felicity Jones and Ed Westwick. Woo her with a bit of Michael Bublé.



SUSSY CAZALET
30s

Sussy, an interior and set designer, is far from beige (as her crazy hair implies) – which helps when you design for 5HS and the Box. Hails from Norfolk and enjoys lusting over art in museums around the world.



TESSA CLARFELT
30s

Tessa is into puppetry and dance, which is beneficial seeing as she works for festival-throwers Secret Productions. She's also learning how to be a trapeze artist – so she's very bendy. ▷



MILLIE BRADY

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARCUS DAWES, DARREN GERRISH, GETTY IMAGES, ALEX WILSON, RETNA, ALASTAIR STRONG, REX FEATURES, HUGO BURNAND, DAFYDD JONES

HEY JEWELS

The Christie's Important Jewels sale takes place on 2 December at King Street in London. Come to marvel at the collection, or consign your own pieces with a free valuation from the auction house



A GROUP OF RETRO RUBY AND DIAMOND 'LUDO HEXAGONE' JEWELLERY, BY VAN CLEEF & ARPELS, CIRCA 1937, ESTIMATE £40,000–50,000

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2016



SOPHIE KENNEDY CLARK
20s

This Scottish actress was once met at Cologne airport by a man holding a sign reading 'Nymphomaniac'. Don't get too excited – Sophie was acting in the Lars von Trier film. She's a vegetarian who occasionally busts a fake nose ring, but as for being a deviant in the sack? Find out.



NATALIE DE CLERMONT
30s

By day Natalie works in political-risk analysis, by night she parties. So it's G&Ts vs government default. But she is happy to talk puppies too.



CORA CORRE
TEENS

Vivienne Westwood's model granddaughter is smoking hot and has epic parties at her house near Regent's Park, where she hangs with her best mate Raf Law.



ROSABEL CREAN
20s

Aged eight, Rosabel was on the tasting panel for Prestat, her father's chocolate company. These days, the Newcastle student can often be seen in India or Wiltshire.

D



CARA DELEVINGNE
20s

That girl, the one with the eyebrows and the mantra to 'embrace your weirdness'. Weirdly, she also really embraces the movie *Magic Mike*. Surprised?



PEARL VAN DEN ENDE
30s

'Play to your strengths,' they say, and Pearl organises parties with Pearl, Rock and Raven Events for a living and lives to party: ta-dah! Not so good when it comes to sleep.

F



COCO FENNELL
20s

Dolly Parton is her muse, Dollywood is her Mecca – this absolute doll works 9 to 5 designing sexy, fun dresses.



LILY FORTESCUE
20s

If Lily had a favourite letter, it would be P – this workout fanatic is all pout, pert and party (with takeaway pizza on her speed-dial). She also designs pants, under the name Cheek Frills. And loves her pet pooch.



LILY FORTESCUE



LAURA FRASER
30s

This yogi recently contemplated whether she could be a nun. Luckily, the conclusion was no – instead, she's retreated to Hampshire to write while she plots her next move. Party on.

G



VANESSA GARWOOD
30s

After studying under Charles Cecil in Florence, the stunningly talented portrait painter set up a studio in Gunter Grove. She loves parties and has a very sexy smile.



GENEVIEVE GAUNT
20s

Win this Cambridge-educated actress's heart with a jaunt to Budapest – she longs to go there. She's passionate about the English language and is a dedicated reader – she once tried to read *Liar's Poker* by Michael Lewis in the sauna (hot), but then had to put it in the fridge to cool it down.



SKYE TRAYLER GRAHAM
30s

She's a big-deal director of photography agency Trayler & Trayler, but Skye still can't find eggs in the supermarket – which she likes fried and sunny side up (the two sides of her personality). She's also mad keen on Burning Man and bicycles.



CLAUDIA GUINNESS
20s

No point beating around the bush: Claudia has it all. Brains, wit, beauty – and a sophisticated sense of humour. Bravely break into a festival with her, or if that sounds too intrepid for you, try to woo her in French with a stroll along Brighton Pier – she's currently studying it at Sussex University.

H



ELEANOR HARMSWORTH
TEENS

In her first year at Oxford, Eleanor is fiercely intelligent, a bold and elegant rider and an undiscovered beauty with porcelain skin and waist-length hair.

J



INDIA JAMES
20s

She's the youngest girl to ever buy a Howard Hodgkin, but then India and her sister Fawn did inherit most of Soho from their grandfather – which is handy, seeing as she likes to breakfast daily at Soho House and grab a nightcap at the Groucho. Oh, and in the daytime run her Soho Revue Gallery. ▷

PHOTOGRAPHS: PRESS ASSOCIATION, GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES, MARCUS DAWES, WENN, ALEX WILSON, DOMINIC O'NEILL, OLEG TOLSTOY



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TATLER'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK

2016



PHOEBE COLLINGS-JAMES
20s

The half-Jamaican model/artist/feminist has a blog called C**t Today. So don't wade in there being all patriarchal.



MORGAN LAKE
TEENS

This Old Wellingtonian is hotly tipped to be the next Jessica Ennis-Hill – she represented Great Britain in the high jump in this year's World Championships. Never competes without getting her nails done.



DAISY LOWE
20s

Dances for charity, dances for Snogs (the frozen-yogurt variety) and dances for fun. And when it rains, this rock heiress/model puts on her PJs and stays home. Possibly watching *Dirty Dancing*.



OLIVIA LUTTRELL
20s

If you want to get Olivia some ice, you'd better get the good stuff – she's a trained gemologist, so can spot a dud diamond a mile off. Now she's making her own jewellery, doing commissions for friends. Eats hummus for breakfast.



IDINA MONCREIFFE
20s

Scottish model Idina talks in a whisper, which is a great excuse for you to lean in. That aside, she is far from shy, even if she does like to hide behind her easel. Not great with high-maintenance men. She has been known to break into her own flat with a stolen ladder and the help of a hot Australian surfer dude – strewth.



SARA MORALIOGLU
30s

Half-Turkish, half-Brummie, and one half of fashion designer Erdem (she's his twin). Born in Montreal, she films nature documentaries, once seeing 12 rainbows in 24 hours, and makes dogs howl uncontrollably when she tinkers on the piano. ENCORE!



IDINA MONCREIFFE



SOPHIE MOSS
30s

The head of events at 5HS has a very good bottom. Bite it.

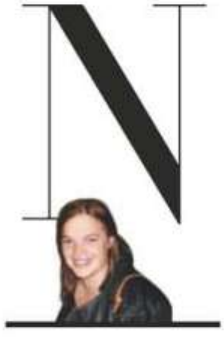


LADY TATIANA MOUNTBATTEN
20s

Long-legged Tatiana is a professional rider and 494th in line to the throne. She is obsessed with nutrition and her horses, so ask her out for a juice and she'll be yours.



SOPHIE MOSS



LIBERTY NIMMO
20s

When not dispensing advice on which luxury Italian villa to rent, this Edinburgh graduate whizzes demonically around town on a scooter. Find her downing Aperol spritzes in Rome or Brixton, listening to jazz in Streatham or partying with Rihanna.



PETRA PALUMBO
20s

Model Petra is perfectly pretty (yuk), and has the best fancy-dress box in London – she dressed as Pikachu the Pokémon for her 26th, and has been known to dress as a human loofah and salmon nigiri. Not just good at fancy costumes – she also designs fancy tapestry slippers.



KIRSTY PATTERSON
20s

Her I + I jewellery adorns ears and arms all over London, though many a lad would prefer Kirsty as their arm candy...



ALLEGRA PILKINGTON
20s

It's almost awkward how good this girl is at animation. Don't try to tie her down, or up, it's not her thing. Parties, however, are. ▷

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES, ALEX WILSON, FILM MAGIC, ALASTAIR STRONG



FROM TOP,
PEARL SPIKE STUDS, £68. EVERGREEN GRAND NECKLACE, £2,617. EMERALD CUSHION BORDER-SET RING, £153. WILLA EARRINGS, £263



SHINING BRIGHT

Celebrity fan base? Check. Mouth-watering gems and intricate pieces? Double check. Meet CARAT* London – the jewellery house for the starry-eyed

Fashion trends come and go, as ephemeral as the seasons they embody. But style? Glamour? They're a constant. There are certain shortcuts to achieving that sort of polished perfection: good hair, lashings of lipstick and *lots* of sparkle. CARAT* can certainly help you with the latter. From delicate pendants and pear drop earrings to gob-smacking jewels in punchy colours – this is statement jewellery that twinkles and glistens. Feminine, show-stopping and intricately crafted. What makes CARAT* different? Ah, it is the best kept secret in fashion. Sshhh, huddle in close. For all its dazzle, shine and high-octane 'wow' factor, CARAT* jewellery is costume. Really. Which of course makes it insanely affordable and all the more covetable.

Founder and CEO Scott Thompson (pictured) traded in a cloud-hopping pilot's life for heavenly jewellery. He launched CARAT* in 2003, having perceived a gap in the market for accessible and beautiful jewellery. At CARAT* attention to detail is paramount – each high-quality synthetic stone is hand-cut, hand-polished and set in spectacular pieces. On average, it takes nine months to train a stone cutter in the art of cutting precise specifications – in order to yield the most magnificent stones. The results, of course, speak for themselves. CARAT* has partnered with the BAFTA TV Awards for the fifth year running. As the sole official jewellery partner, CARAT's eye-catching pieces can be seen dangling around the necks of the biggest stars in the world – Olivia Williams, Katherine Kelly, Sheridan Smith and Olivia Colman. Other high profile fans include Lady Gaga, Rita Ora and Lily Allen. The jewellery house has over 190 stockists in the UK, including Harrods, Selfridges and House of Fraser, as well as stand-alone boutiques in London's Covent Garden, Canary Wharf and Burlington Arcade plus Leeds.

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TATLER'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK

2016



ISLAY STOPFORD-SACKVILLE
TEENS

This Marlborough girl excels at sports, dazzles in drama, speaks multiple languages... enough already, ask her to be your head girl.



ELLA MAY SANGSTER
20s

An Old Stoic and stylist, Ella May is all long legs and glossy hair. Yet she is more than happy leaving the limelight to the models. Way to her heart? She loves a ripe avocado.



LADY FLORA SCRYMGEOUR
30s

'Scrymy' is a dab hand with a paintbrush and cuts a pretty picture herself. After years in NYC, she's back in town – except for when she's chilling at her family home, Birkhill Castle. Has a thing for squirrels, and you know what they say about that...



LAUREN SOUNESS
20s

Sexy sports presenter who also moonlights presenting boozy BarChick TV – clearly, she's the ultimate bloke's dream. Tread carefully if you hope to score, though: her stepfather is legendary football hard man Graeme Souness.



POLLY STENHAM
20s

The wildly talented playwright mouths along to each line while watching her own plays – she does the same thing when listening to Radiohead. She claims it's 'important to give sh*t a shot', so why not have a go with her? Just don't be intimidated by her coterie of punky pals.



TIGERLILY TAYLOR
20s

The model daughter of Queen drummer Roger lives in Portobello and spends her spare time writing poetry – when she graduates from Sussex next year, she wants to do it for a living. That or become a journalist. She likes to hide out in Holland Park's Japanese garden and to fill up at Phat Phuc (the Vietnamese off the King's Road). Be warned, she bites – hence her family nickname, Piranha.



EMMA WATSON
20s

The actress can dance really well, to any music, and still look cool. But her best moves are those she busts pioneering for gender equality. Also really loves strawberries with Nutella. Totally yum. Oh, and Amy Poehler makes her laugh.



LEAH DE WAVRIN
20s

French Anglophile model who bears a striking resemblance to Uma Thurman. A regular on the wedding circuit, but fortunately no one's put a ring on it yet. That said, she is more than happy hanging with her favourite pal – Poopi, the King Charles spaniel.



TIGERLILY TAYLOR



LEAH DE WAVRIN



FLORENCE WELCH
20s

The girl has harmonised with Stevie Nicks and Mick Jagger, does DIY French and meditation, and is so emotive on stage she has made grown men cry – Dave Grohl, for instance. There is one thing she can't do – argue. And there's no arguing with that.



GEORGIE WELLS
30s

A tech-savvy web designer and poetry scribbler, Georgie once won Spotify's playlist of the month – beat that!



LUCY WRIGHT
20S

Interior-designer Lucy once dressed as Monster Munch for Hallowe'en. She wore a sequin dress with a fluffy teddy-monster distractingly placed in front of her, well... you know. Yet somehow she made it sexy. ▷



FLORENCE WELCH

PHOTOGRAPHS: RADU BREBANE, FAMOUS, REX FEATURES, HUGO BURNAND, DOMINIC O'NEILL, DARREN GERRISH, SPLASH, MASHA MEL, DANIEL PAIK, INF

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SIBLINGS



JAKE, DASH & RAF FELLNER
20s & TEENS

Jake, Dash and Raf are the swaggering offspring of Working Title boss Eric Fellner and his first wife, film director Gaby Dellal. They're a tight crew who are into travelling and tattoos. Jake has a whopping eagle on his left arm; Raf has strong eyebrows; Dash is rarely out of his Chelsea shirt. Hopeful applicants need to win over Gaby first – she's fiercely protective of her boys.



JACK & FINN HARRIES
20s

These twins set up a YouTube channel in 2011 and now have four million followers. They're a rare pair: dark and smouldering but with the very best sense of humour. Genuine clickbait.



JACK & FINN HARRIES



IZZY & JESSIE GOOD
20s

The model sisters learnt the secret to throwing an excellent party as kids – when they were growing up, their parents held an annual fancy-dress bash (their mother is Belle Robinson and their stepfather was John Robinson, of Jigsaw fame) where Izzy and Jessie's job was to hand vodka shots to everyone who walked through the door.



DAISY, BILLY & KITTY JENKS
20s

People actually pay Daisy and Kitty to come to their parties! Admittedly, that's because they capture the night's shenanigans on film. Fortunately for them, no cinematographer caught Kitty going flying on her roller-skates earlier this year at a disco-themed 21st, nor Daisy running wild at Sónar in Barcelona. And their equally handsome brother Billy is never far behind the girls. Ask him to show you his reindeer... (They keep some at their family home.)



LADIES VIOLET, ALICE & ELIZA MANNERS
20s & TEENS

The Duke of Rutland's three daughters are the modern-day Mitfords. Ravishing, sparky and always up for a party, they'll outdance you at Loulou's, shoot better than you at Belvoir and won't put up with bores. Consider that a warning.



BILLY & HENRY MORLEY
30s & 20s

Dangerously charming, these brothers. Billy has just moved back from Nairobi and can now most often be found hunting with the Beaufort. Henry flogs luxury holidays. Major lungeing skills.



LEO, SAM & DANIEL STRUTT
20s & TEENS

Older siblings Scarlett and Algy may have been stolen off the market, but, never fear, these three whippersnappers are still up for grabs. Leo read zoology at Edinburgh and is fairly ape-like when on the dancefloor with his younger bro Sam. Daniel, still at Stowe, is more of a peacock, having helped with this year's fashion show.



LUKE & HARRY TREADAWAY
30s

Luke once claimed that he and his twin might self-destruct by 27. But, hip hip hooray, the acting duo haven't. Though they do fear the world might. Foie-gras eaters need not apply.



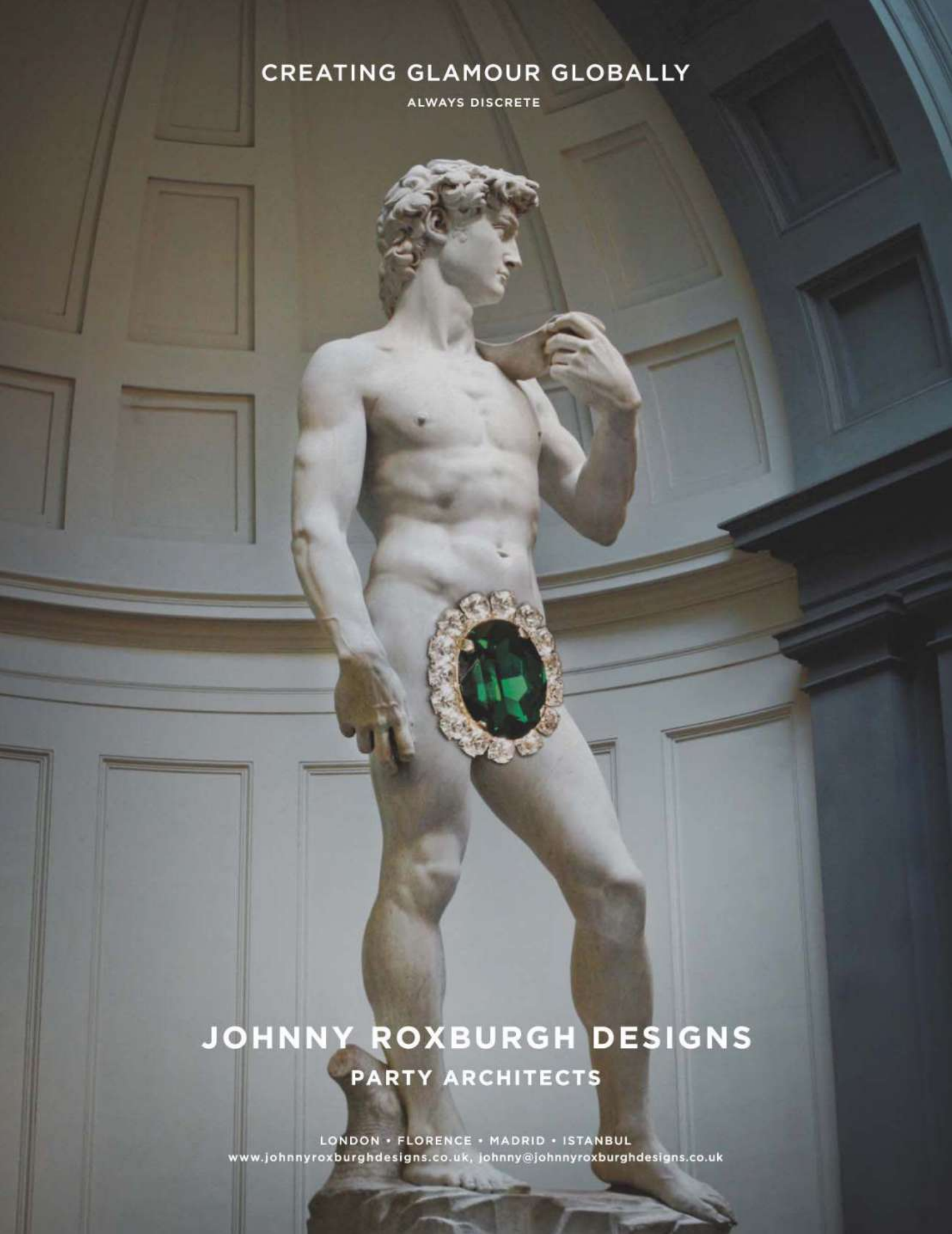
TISH & CELIA WEINSTOCK
20s & 30s

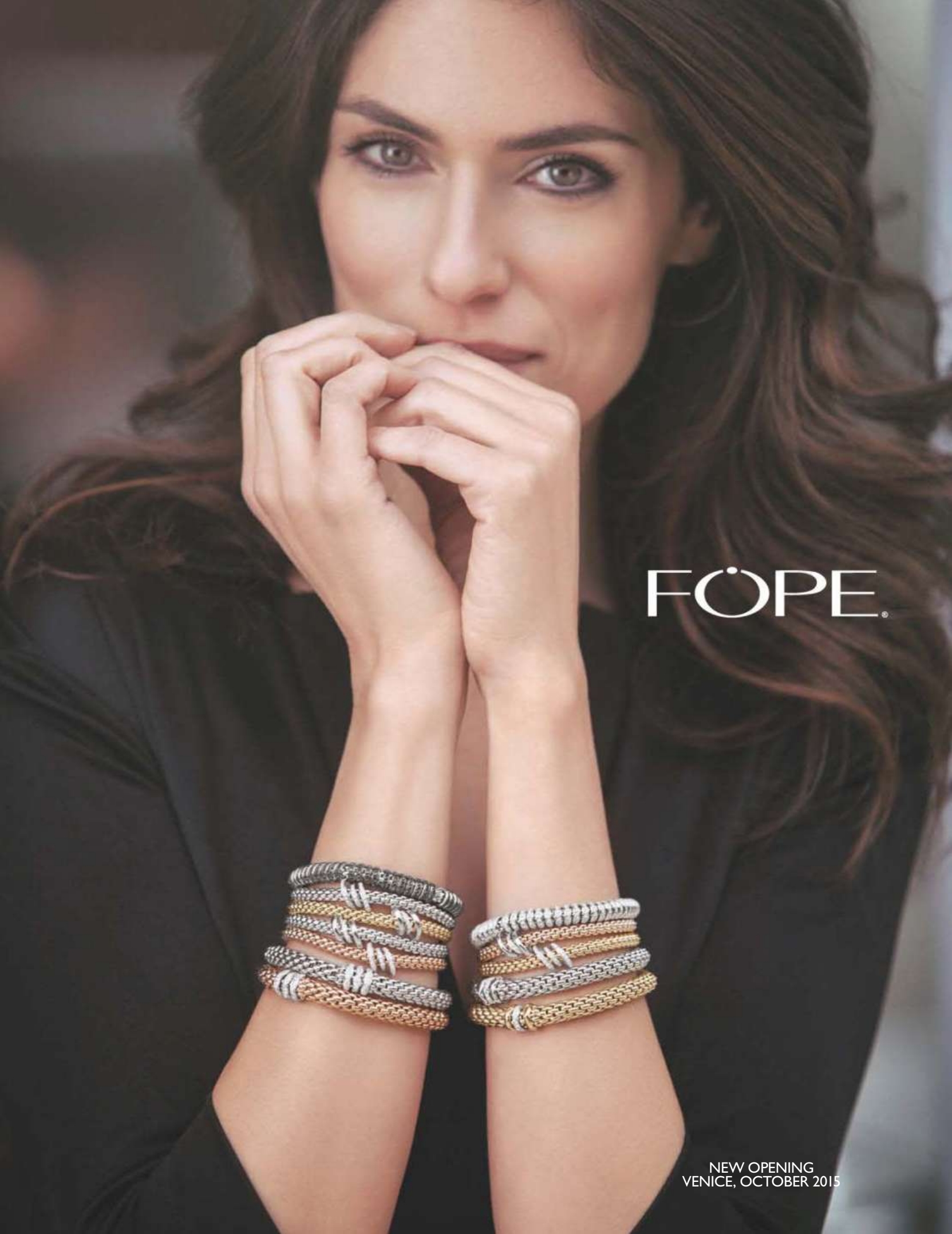
Tish is a natty dresser with goth vibes, though this *i-D* magazine writer is more conservative when she dresses her dog Percy in his Sunday best. Oxford-graduate Celia is more refined and designs elegant jewellery. □



LUKE & HARRY TREADAWAY

PHOTOGRAPHS: CHARLIE GRAY, DOM O'NEILL, DAFYDD JONES, REX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES, ASH KINGSTON, NICO MORGAN


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NEW OPENING
VENICE, OCTOBER 2015

About Town

Photographed by FELICITY McCABE



THE DANCER

Looking at Francesca Hayward – a jewellery-box ballerina brought to life – it's hard to imagine her doing anything unladylike. Until she tells you about the time her nipple popped out onstage. 'I knew it was out, but I couldn't do anything,' she says. 'I just had to carry on.' Let's hope there are no similar mishaps when she plays Clara in *The Nutcracker* later this year – the role that first made her want to become a dancer. One of her earliest memories is of her grandparents putting her down in front of a video of the ballet. 'And that was it – I was twirling all day, every day. They had to remind me to stop and eat.' Born in Nairobi to an English father and Kenyan mother, the 23-year-old moved to Sussex to be raised by her grandparents when she was two. Her grandmother ferried her between ballet classes and encouraged her to sign up for the Royal Ballet Lower School in Richmond Park when she was 11. From there, she progressed through the ranks until her recent promotion to first soloist at the Royal Ballet. But as much as she's looking forward to the fairytale froth of *The Nutcracker*, Francesca loves meatier roles – like Manon. 'There's sex, death, prostitutes – it is BRILLIANT.' The only downside to all that dancing? Mangled feet. 'Pedicures can be a bit awkward – I don't have toenails on my two littlest toes, so they just have to paint blobs on and pretend.' ***LB***

Francesca Hayward performs in The Nutcracker at the Royal Opera House from December to January (roh.org.uk).

FRANCESCA HAYWARD WEARS SEQUIN, LACE & DUCHESSE-SATIN GOWN WITH SILK-TULLE & ORGANZA UNDERSKIRT, POA, BY CHANEL HAUTE COUTURE. FOR STOCKIST, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR & MAKE-UP BY ANNA GIBSON, USING MAC. STYLED BY AILSA MILLER

Balls Balls Balls

You have to admire the balls of Charles de Beistegui. Europe was still emerging from a post-war hangover when, in 1951, the reclusive Mexican mining heir threw a huge costume ball in Venice, at the Palazzo Labia, which he had bought three years earlier and spent a fortune restoring. Getting to Venice back then wasn't easy – it took days by train and boat. But he pluckily invited all the most glamorous people of the age, from the Aga Khan to Salvador Dalí, knowing they would turn up. They did.

The invitations were sent six months in advance, to give people time to have their costumes made – Pierre Cardin and Nina Ricci practically launched their careers that night. Guests arrived by gondola on the Grand Canal and Beistegui, nicknamed the 'Count of Monte Cristo', received them at the top of the stairs, his tiny frame barely recognisable, propped up on two-foot platform heels beneath a sausage-curl wig that tumbled down his crimson gown. Lady Diana Cooper came as Cleopatra; the couturier Jacques Fath was the Sun King; and Arturo Lopez-Wilshaw, another noted party-giver, came as the Emperor of China, emerging with his wife from a Chinese junk. Cecil Beaton photographed the whole affair, which was talked about for years afterwards. It was the most important night of Beistegui's life. He suffered a series of strokes 10 years later, sold the palazzo, which became an office block, and died in 1970.

A ball is the ultimate party – the grandest, most decadent, most extravagant knees-up there is. A thick cream invitation to a ball conjures up thoughts of fairytales and waltzing through the night, of sumptuous costumes, gold-leaf ballrooms, bacchanalian levels of alcohol and silver platters of food when you need a little breather. You might attend a ball and meet your prince, or *a* prince at the very least. It will be a night to remember, as opposed to just another night getting pissed at a wedding in a freezing marquee in Devon.

And, hooray, balls are back. These days everything can (or should) be a ball. Take jewellery designer Noor Fares' wedding to Alexandre Al Khawam in France in June. 'Welcome to Noormandie,' read a sign at the entrance to the chateau for the pre-wedding ▷





GEORGE BIRKBECK & CHARLIE WRIGHT AT THE GEEBUNG POLO CLUB, 1987. *ABOVE LEFT*, PRINCESS MICHAEL OF KENT AT A CHARITY BALL AT THE GROSVENOR HOTEL, 1990. *LEFT*, JAMES COLLIE & RICHARD MORLEY AT THE QUORN HUNT BALL, 2015







LEFT, ANTONIA DE SANCHA AT THE SAVE THE ELEPHANT BALL, 1982. *RIGHT*, KATHERINE APLIN, LUCY FRANKS & TOREE ARNTZ AT THE ELEPHANT FAMILY BALL, 2013

Golden balls!

Here at Tatler we believe in the life-changing power of fun. And what could be more fun than a ball – a big, brilliant, badly behaved ball. Nothing, that's what. So get your gown on and let's party...





GUESTS AT CHARLES DE BEISTEGUI'S BALL IN VENICE, PHOTOGRAPHED BY CECIL BEATON, 1951

PHOTOGRAPHS: THE CECIL BEATON STUDIO ARCHIVE AT SOTHEBY'S; DAFYDD JONES, GETTY IMAGES, PIERS ALLARDYCE, HUGO BURNAND

◁ party – an Arabian Nights-themed ball for hundreds of guests dressed in turbans and beaded maxiskirts. For the wedding itself, an entire village of Lebanese musicians was flown in the following day, and a human-sized cake was served before the guests moved to the 'nightclub tent'. Poppy Delevingne's Jo Malone Blossom Ball, held in April, took over a townhouse in Marylebone, and guests drifted about in couture while eating baked potatoes topped with caviar. And in September, 1,000 people descended on Park Lane for the Boodles Boxing Ball, where Pippa Middleton drank champagne and joined in the ringside roaring as 12 plucky fighters boxed one another.

The timeframe is one of the defining features of a ball. It begins late, usually about 10pm, and goes on until the small hours. Dinner might be served beforehand, but only for the household; most people dine at neighbouring houses if it's in the country, or at restaurants if in town. They can be given in hotels, if you don't have a ballroom of your own, though time was when all the grandest houses in London did. Unless it's fancy dress, the dress code is simple – white tie for men, gowns for women.

'Novelty outfits should be avoided at all costs. They're funny for five minutes, then you look like a prat for the rest of the evening,' says Nicky Haslam, who has been balling for decades. At the ball thrown by the Queen for the Prince of Wales and Diana's wedding in 1981, Nicky recalls that sausages and baked beans were served and – after dancing several whirls with a Spanish princess – he left with Prince Andrew's hat (several hats had been tossed in the air in jubilation). Haslam also points out that, although balls are the perfect excuse to show off your jewels, tiaras should only be worn if specified in the dress code: 'You can't just put one on because you think it will look nice.'

One of the richest women of the Twenties, Mrs Ronnie Greville, was also a ruthless power entertainer and, according to Brian Masters' book *Great Hostesses*, 'she would wear the most ostentatious though beautiful diamonds from head to toe, which was not very far as she was so noticeably short, and look like a Christmas tree'. When, on one occasion, she saw a rival power hostess had more rows of pearls on display, she dug deep into her bosom and yanked out another three rows. In 1924, she gave a ball at which the crowd was so dense that the king and queen of Italy had to sit in their car outside while the footmen cleared a way through the guests to the ballroom.

One of the earliest and wildest balls took place in Paris in 1393, given by the wife of King Charles VI, to cheer him up after a bout of insanity. He and five dancers dressed as wild woodsmen in costumes of flax and pitch, but things got out of hand when they came too close to a torch and caught fire. Four dancers died – one jumped into a vat of wine to cool down – and the event became known as the Bal des Ardents, the ball of the burning men.



NOOR FARES AND ALEXANDRE AL KHAWAM AT THEIR PRE-WEDDING BALL, 2015

In the Renaissance, masked balls became popular in Italy, especially in Venice; noblemen loved the opportunity to misbehave under cover of disguise. These were occasions when the normal rules could be inverted, and grandees could let their hair down. The Yew Tree Ball at Versailles was a pivotal moment in the reign of Louis XV – it was here that he met Jeanne-Antoinette Poisson, the future Madame de Pompadour. There had been a vacancy for the king's mistress since the death of Madame de Châteauroux, and all the ladies of the court were in a state of feverish excitement by the night of 25 February 1745. The party did not begin until 11.30pm, when hundreds of carriages proceeded up to the illuminated palace. Some 15,000 guests assembled in the Hall of Mirrors, waiting for the doors of the king's apartment to open, which would signal the ball's official commencement. Finally, they opened, but only the queen came out, flanked by the dauphin and his new wife. Then, eight topiaried yew trees appeared – the king and his courtiers in disguise. One made a beeline for Jeanne; the king had spotted her out hunting. From that moment on, they would never spend a night apart.

One of the wildest balls took place in Paris to cheer up Charles VI after a bout of insanity

A few decades later, here in England, the ritual began of presenting debutantes at court. It was Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, who started it, as a birthday present to herself. The idea was to display 17-year-old aristocratic virgins to eligible bachelors ('debs' delights') under the watchful eye of parents and chaperones. The season would open with Queen Charlotte's Ball in May, and continue into the autumn: a relentless series of balls by the end of which you hoped to have been married off. At Queen Charlotte's, a giant white cake was the centrepiece, and the girls curtseyed in its direction as they filed past.

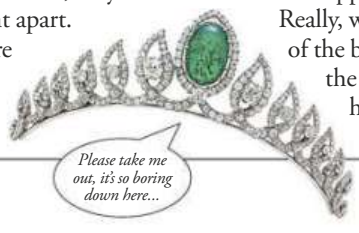
The late 19th and early 20th centuries were undoubtedly the heyday of the ball. In 1897, the Duchess of Devonshire gave a fancy-dress ball to mark Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee; 700 guests dressed as historic figures – including Will Somers, Queen Elizabeth I's court jester, and Lord Nelson – and the hostess herself ventured even further back in history, looking magnificent as Queen Zenobia of Palmyra.

Cecil Beaton seems to have been at many of the greatest balls. At Sidney Herbert's 21st birthday at Wilton, the seat of the Earls of Pembroke, he turned up wearing full maquillage, which didn't go down well with the Wiltshire hearties. A rowdy bunch gathered him up and deposited him in the Nadder, much to his humiliation. 'As anyone who has ever had a glass of water tipped over them will know, it's the shock of it that's most upsetting,' says Hugo Vickers, Beaton's biographer. 'Still, Cecil wasn't deterred, and went straight back to the Double Cube room, where he danced the night away, squelching in his sodden shoes.'

The very grandest families in England had large houses in Mayfair – the biggest were along Park Lane – with ballrooms. Lady Londonderry was one of the greatest hostesses of the time, generating hysteria throughout society every time she gave a ball. 'The crowd at Londonderry House was the densest I had ever seen at a London party,' wrote Sir Almeric FitzRoy after one given in 1903 to mark the king's birthday. 'One girl fainted in the street and had to be lain out on the pavement, and one or two others collapsed inside the building.'

Londonderry House was eventually sold off and demolished to make way for a Hilton hotel. Nicky Haslam was at the last ball there in 1965. 'It was fabulous,' he says. 'The grand staircase was lined with footmen, Mick Jagger and Min Hogg were dancing in the ballroom. The next morning, wrecking balls reduced the house to dust. This lent the night an air of piquancy, of *fin de siècle*, although that quality is often supplied in retrospect.'

Really, when it comes to balls, it's a case of the bigger the better – the jewels, the gowns and, of course, the hangovers. ***Matthew Bell*** ▷



PHOTOGRAPHS: INSTAGRAM/BAT_GIO

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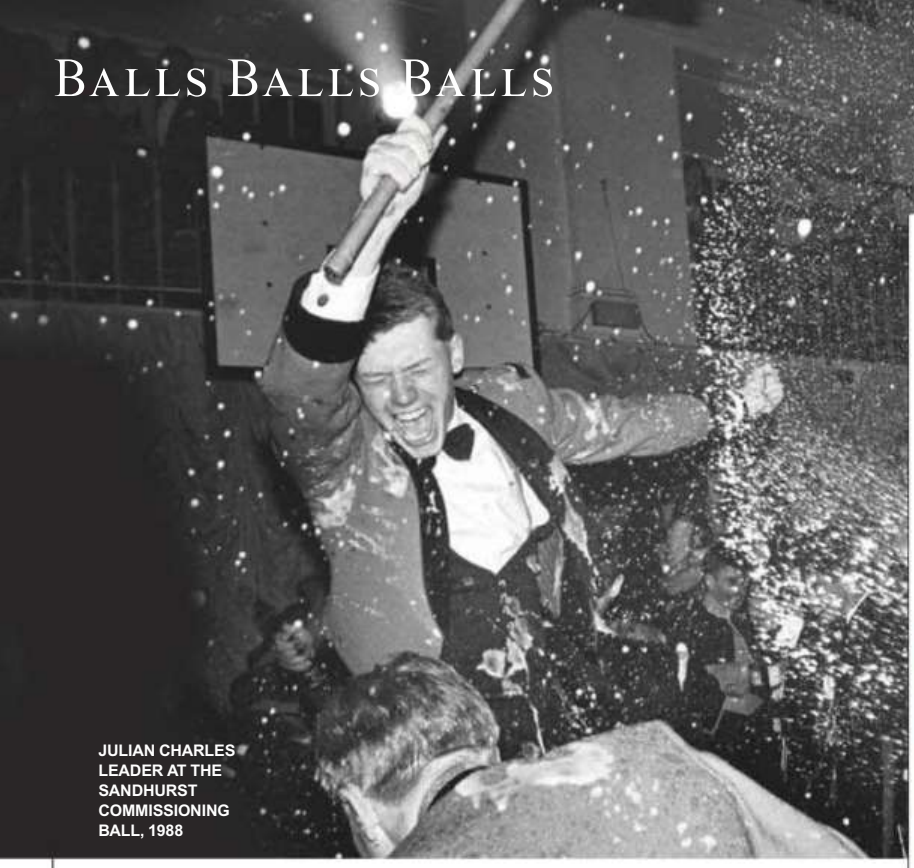
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Balls Balls Balls



JULIAN CHARLES LEADER AT THE SANDHURST COMMISSIONING BALL, 1988

TOP BALLERS

By Sophia Money-Coutts



Daisy Jenks

She makes music videos of your parties, but Daisy, 24, has got some pretty nifty moves herself. 'I love getting on the floor and crawling through as many legs as possible,' she says.



Ben Roper-Curzon

Ben, 33, can lift his dance partners above his head like Patrick Swayze in *Dirty Dancing*. Musical, too, which means he has good rhythm. Wink.



Lady Jane Wellesley

An example to us all, the Duke of Wellington's sister, 64, is a spirited mover who especially likes anything by Roxy Music.



Harry Soames

The sort of burly 30-year-old chap who knows how to throw a girl about – over his shoulder, through his legs, under his arm. And he's pretty good on the dancefloor too.



Numa Heathcote

Sure, this thirty-something occupies himself with property by day. But when night falls you'll see him doing 'the worm' – throwing himself down on the floor, wiggling along to music.



Tom Bartlett

'I'm just off to do more of my excellent dancing,' architect Tom, 41, will announce airily at a party. Which we applaud, because you need to have self-confidence to fling yourself about to music.



Freya Wood

Mary Killen's 28-year-old daughter has limitless reserves of energy. She's been known to dance for eight hours straight – her partners crawl from the dancefloor like war-weary soldiers.



Marquess of Worcester

Always the most exuberant (and last) man on the dancefloor, Bunter, 63, was either a rock star or a whirling dervish in a former life. Watch out for his windmilling (arms).

THE TAFFETA TIMELINE

By Emilie McMeekan

1940s

'At a ball, the debutante wears her very prettiest ball dress. Old-fashioned sentiment prefers that it be white, and of some diaphanous material... A friend of her mother might perhaps say, "You look too lovely, Cynthia dear!"' Emily Post, *Etiquette**





1950s

'You can never be too rich, too thin or wear too much Cartier,' the Duchess of Windsor nearly said. Lesson of the post-rationing Fifties: more is more is more.

1960s

Think Jackie O, think Audrey, think Grace. And repeat.



1970s

'I don't want to wear what every other woman wears. I won't be dictated to.' Bianca Jagger's ball-tude.





1980s

'The overexcited behaviour of some teenagers with a sudden craze for piggyback fights' (*Tatler*, 1984). Only possible in short ballgowns. And black lace tights.



1990s

Three words: sequins, Catherine and Walker.



2000s

'If you're not going to make a room fizz, why bother coming out?' Nicky Haslam, 2008.



2010s

'It looks like a rather mad Ascot,' said the Duchess of Cornwall of her 2013 Elephant Family Ball. ▷

*WRITTEN IN 1922. HOLDING STRONG IN THE FORTIES. *BOTTOM*, NANCY DELL'OLIO AT THE ELEPHANT FAMILY BALL, 2013. PHOTOGRAPHS: REX FEATURES, DAFYDD JONES, MARY EVANS, GETTY IMAGES, DOMINIC O'NEILL, ALAN DAVIDSON

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Balls Balls Balls



THE BALL FOR THE DEBUT OF LINDY GUINNESS, BELVOIR CASTLE, 1959

THE BEST PRIVATE BALLROOMS

By Luciana Bellini

Old Rectory, Chelsea

There are plenty of things to recommend this house – it's slap-bang in the middle of Chelsea, it's 30,000 square feet and it has two acres of garden. And a gigantic ballroom. It was bought by Norwegian shipping king John Fredriksen from fellow shipping magnate Theodore Angelopoulos in 2001, and we like to think his beautiful, blonde twin daughters Kathrine and Cecilie have had their fair share of knees-ups in there.

Powis Castle, Powys

The ballroom at this 13th-century castle has a spooky secret – it's the most haunted room in the whole castle. Since it was originally built in 1776 by the 2nd Earl of Powis for his 21st-birthday celebrations, there have been numerous reports of ghostly piano music floating from the empty room, as well as sightings of the piano stool moving on its own.

Welbeck Abbey, Nottinghamshire

This underground ballroom lurks beneath Sherwood Forest. It's vast – 174 feet long – and at one point had 17 chandeliers swinging from its ceiling. It was especially odd of the 5th Duke of Portland to build it in the 1800s, though, because he was a shy, reclusive man who never threw parties.

Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire

As the home of the spirited Manners sisters, Violet, Eliza and Alice, this ballroom has seen some wild parties over the years. Like the time one shooting weekend when the three girls turned it into an impromptu nightclub, complete with disco ball and lights, and bopped through the night still wearing their tweed.

THE NEW BALL RULES

By Annabel Rivkin

Don't go to a ball on a Tuesday.

Never wear opals to a ball.



If you're Ubering it, at least get an exec.

Sex in the loo at a ball is to be applauded (unless you are a teenager. Sorry).

The bigger the dress, the greater the kudos.

Do not drink beer – most un-bally.



If one boob pops out, great wealth will befall you.

If two boobs pop out, beware the Ides of March.

No eating at a ball before midnight.

You shall go to the ball. Never refuse an invitation (except on a Tuesday. See above).



SCOTS DO IT BETTER...

By Sophia Money-Coutts



I was a fat teenager who hated parties because I always went to them looking like a pork pie in a dress. No boy would dance with me, let alone snog me, so there was an awful lot of hovering on the edge of dancefloors and visiting the loos. Except when, aged 16, I went to the Oban Ball, and I realised that Scottish parties were different, vastly superior and entirely joyful things, for several key reasons:

1 Everyone is given a dance card. This lists the order of reels for the night, and it must be filled in with a dinky little pencil that comes with it, so no one is ever left out, sitting forlornly on the sidelines like Mary Bennet.



2 Nobody minds even if you are shaped like a pork pie and thus not so graceful at reeling or aren't sure of the moves, because Scottish dancing is largely about the taking part. (Even better if you are a girl, because the boys have to lead.)

3 Your dance partner might have deadly breath/BO/wandering hands, but that's all right because you'll get to eye up plenty of other people as you move down a set.

4 It is almost impossible to have any embarrassing vomit moments at a Scottish ball, because you are too busy dancing to drink that much AND you're sweating all the alcohol off anyway.



5 The snogging pressure's off, because pulling isn't the point. Reeling is the point.

6 A proper breakfast is always doled out after 1am. Kedgeree, black pudding, eggs, sausages. The lot. Heaven for pork pies.

7 All those 'true Scotsman' jokes can get tiresome, but there is something rather wonderful about a man in a kilt. □



KILTY PLEASURES

PHOTOGRAPHS: SHUTTERSTOCK, PIERS ALLARDYCE, © BURT GLINN/MAGNUM PHOTOS

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Notes to self

A clutch that lights up! The ultimate mobile disco

Ideally, we'd all be lit from within. Positively burning with joie de vivre. But life gets in the way. So if you are having trouble being the funnest girl at the party; if you're having trouble even getting out of bed to go to the party – then FAKE IT. Fake the illuminated fervour. Play pretend with the life's-a-bowl-of-cherries vibe. Just... turn on your handbag. It's a talking point, a conversation starter, a cheerful howl of 'Notice Me!', without table-dancing or body parts involved. And it's kind of witty. You might as well be carrying a placard saying, 'I'm a proper laugh – and quite fashionable too.' Take them camping to light your way to the lav. Take them to job interviews to make your point. Use them as a snazzy reading light. Hail taxis. Create your own one-woman mobile disco with the sound-activated version – why ever not? Killing so many birds with one, bag-shaped stone. No-bloody-brainer.



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The lunchbox has landed. By Emma Kennedy

Ah, the sounds of the glen! Deer rutting on a gorse peak, the call of the mighty eagle, a man standing under a pine blowing on his pipes... and, perhaps greatest of all, the deep grunts of a *Tatler* reader as she squats, dips and planks in preparation for the biggest challenge of her life: haggis-hurling. For this game you need:
1. One haggis (vegetarian options are available).
2. A good throwing arm.

Once upon a time, haggis-hurling was not a sport – it was a necessity. Auld Scottish ladyfolk would make a haggis for their husband's lunch, but, spatchcocked by the thought of having to cross myriad swamps and brooks, they saved themselves the bother by simply giving a hearty whistle to their other half and chucking the haggis at him instead. The husband, for his part, was expected to catch the incoming haggis in the front apron of his kilt. I have absolutely no research available as to whether said gentlemen were wearing any undergarments at the time of catching, but let's just say that this was clearly a win-win arrangement for everyone involved.



Haggis-hurling is still a sport at various Highland games, so limber up dear *Tatler* reader – this one can catapult you to glory. The current record is 217 feet, so no slackers, please. Stand on a platform, lob your haggis with a sense of gay abandon, and that's it. Now get on with it.

PHOTOGRAPH: REX FEATURES. COMPILED BY AILSA MILLER

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THE PRINCE GEORGE DIARIES

It's Christmas at Sandringham and tempers are fraying... Fortunately, one of the most insightful and observant scribes of our age is on hand to record this key moment in British history. By Clare Bennett

24TH DECEMBER 2014

Today is a day called Christmas Eve. We spent most of it at Sandringham and because – don't spread it around – we are a bit German and our German ancestors always opened their presents on Christmas Eve, we do too.

After the presents, Great-Aunt Annie asked the dreaded question if anyone wanted to play Racing Demon. It totally changed the mood in the room. GaGa said her back was hurting too much and Goonie said he hadn't finished his conversation with the mistletoe. Great-Uncle Andy and Great-Uncle Eddie said they wanted to watch *Elf*, Great-Aunt Soph hid under the table and Cousin Bea and Cousin Euge both just ran out of the room.

As Great-Aunt Annie made a beeline for GG and G-Pop, Daddy turned to us. 'We only have seconds left,' he said breathily. 'She'll be over at any moment – what do we do?'

'Quick, George,' Mummy said. 'Go and knock over that vase.'

'But it was a present from Franklin Roosevelt to Great-Grandpa Bertie,' Daddy said anxiously.

'This is an emergency!' Mummy whispered. 'I'm thinking of all of us!'

Great-Aunt Annie, who didn't seem to be getting anywhere with GG and G-Pop, both of whom had suddenly pretended to fall asleep, finally turned her determined gaze upon us. I rushed at the vase, giving it a hearty wallop. It didn't break. Mummy and Daddy looked at each other with panic-riddled saucer eyes, so Daddy subtly stepped onto its neck and we heard it crack under his foot. Great-Aunt Annie eyed us all suspiciously. 'Well, you kids – who's got the *cojones* to take me on at a round of RD?' she said sinisterly.

'George just broke this vase,' Daddy gulped. 'Better get someone to, you know, maybe see if it can be fixed.' He backed away towards the curtains.

'Kate?'

Mummy frowned.

'Feeling so sick,' she whispered. 'Sorry.'

There was only one man left. Uncle Harry sat paralysed in his chair, a terrible tortured smile on his face.

'YOU,' Great-Aunt Annie boomed.

'Hay, Aunt A,' Uncle Harry squeaked. The faintest hint of a smile at the deliberately planted horse-related word appeared on Mummy's face.

'How about a quick friendly game?'

Uncle Harry looked at us frantically.

'Ahhh... ahhhh... ahhhh,' was all he could say.

'What's it to be? Yay or nay?'

Uncle Harry shot a glance to Mummy.

'Neigh?' he said.

He's wearing a bandage now from where she slammed her fist down instead of the card and Uncle Harry's hand got in the way. 'It was an accident,' Great-Aunt Annie said. 'But the main thing is, I won.'

25TH DECEMBER

Today is a day called Christmas Day! It's about a baby called Jesus, who came into this world to be king too. He didn't get a crocodile when he was born, though. He only got a lamb and some stuff in pots. Poor Jesus.

We went to the big house for lunch, but a complicated thing happened when we arrived. It's all because GG updated the Order of Precedence to accommodate Daddy marrying Mummy. These changes were meant to help, but they haven't really.

There we were in the hall when Daddy said he had to ring Godfather Jamie, so he stepped into the doorway of another room. Just then Cousin Bea and Cousin Euge came downstairs. If Daddy isn't with her, Mummy has to curtsy to them because they are princesses by blood. If he is, they're supposed to curtsy to her. Those are the rules.

'Happy Christmas!' they shouted. 'Hashtag jingle-bell vibes!'

They all looked at Daddy, who loitered in the doorway.

'Is he in the room or not?' Mummy said. 'He's got one foot on either side of the doorway. What do we do?

'Like, I have no idea,' said Cousin Euge.

'Is it us or you?' Cousin Bea said cheerfully.

'I'd rather be on the safe side,' Mummy said politely, starting to curtsy. Just as Daddy temporarily stepped back into the hall.

'Wait, he's in the room now!' Cousin Euge and Cousin Bea shrieked.

Mummy quickly stood up again and Cousin Euge and Cousin Bea curtsied instead. It was like they were on a seesaw.

Then Great-Uncle Eddie and Great-Aunt Soph came sloping down the stairs too.

'Hullo,' they said. 'Happy Christmas.'

Everyone looked at Daddy.

'We can't tell if Wills is, like, in the room or not in the room,' Cousin Euge said.

'Awky mo-mo,' Cousin Bea said.

WHO'S WHO: **Goonie** is Charles. **GaGa** is Camilla (who also calls Charles 'Fred'). **GG** is the Queen. **G-Pop** is the Duke of Edinburgh. **Wombat** is William.

'That doesn't affect me,' Great-Aunt Soph said tightly, curtsying to absolutely everyone.

'Oh Lord,' Uncle Harry whispered to me. 'This is a better start to the day than I could ever have imagined.'

Then GaGa and Goonie came down the stairs.

'Ahoy!' GaGa said. 'Happy Christmas, lovers!'

Everyone curtsied to them. At least that was straightforward.

Then Great-Aunt Annie came down the stairs.

'Happy Christmas,' she boomed. 'Who wants a quickfire game of Snakes and Ladders before lunch?'

Everyone looked at Daddy. Whose feet were now back on either side of the doorway.

'Isn't this a scream?' GaGa said cheerfully. 'Shall I send Fred away and really shake things up?' She and Goonie laughed hysterically.

'Actually, I do need to ask William something,' Goonie said, heading off towards Daddy.

Great-Aunt Annie looked at GaGa.

'So, this is awkward,' she said flatly.

'Down I go!' GaGa said, bending her knees to curtsy.

Uncle Harry was by this time so hysterical that he had to go and stand by one of the Titians until he had calmed down.

'Thanks for that, Wombat,' he said later on, getting a £10 note out of his pocket and giving it to Daddy as we were going up the stairs. 'It worked like a dream. I haven't laughed that much in ages.'

'What the hell?' Mummy said. 'You planned that?'

Daddy looked guilty.

'We just wanted to test if everyone knew the rules,' Uncle Harry said.

Mummy gave him a shove.

'You are so dead,' she said. 'I'll get you for this. From now on, you need to sleep with one eye open.'

Daddy laughed, so Mummy shoved him too.

'As for you,' she said menacingly, 'you're sleeping on the sofa for the rest of your life.'

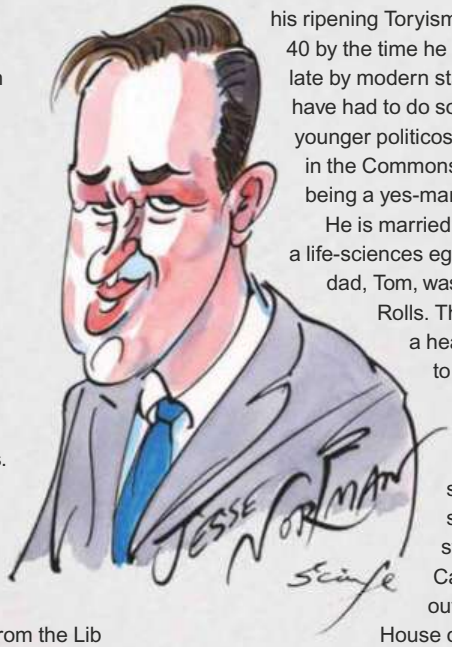
'I love you,' he called after her as she marched past him, deliberately treading on his foot. □

From The Prince George Diaries by Clare Bennett, published by Michael Joseph at £8.99.

Quentin Letts

JESSE NORMAN

Non-Cameroon Tory MP and slightly contrarian classicist



JESSE Norman is six-foot-five, the top six inches or more being brow. But then this highbrow did once teach philosophy at University College London and write a biography of 18th-century chinstroker Edmund Burke.

Tall men are often infected by diffidence. Norman was until recently one of life's murmurers, the voice on the level of a Shakespearean third spear carrier saying 'rhubarb'. You seldom heard him shout insults at opponents. Then he had a screaming match in the lobby with fellow OE David Cameron.

Norman, who is MP for Hereford and South Herefordshire (which he won from the Lib Dems in 2010), went to public school after a patchy early education at a London state primary, a trendy 'progressive' school and a crammer. All those brains were in danger of being wasted. His late mother, a gifted painter who, being a left-winger, didn't approve of private education, took a laidback approach to discipline. Jesse's dad, Torquil, was more pragmatic. A toy entrepreneur who devised the Big Yellow Teapot and Polly Pocket, Sir Torquil felt that, having made some loot, he was entitled to blow it on his children's schooling. Beanpole Jesse was despatched to the Eton hothouse.

Around this time, Prime Minister Ted Heath asked the fatal question 'Who governs Britain?' – and the country was soon being knackered by Labour and the trade unions. The lad saw that the left might not be as great as his adorable mum thought. He went up to Oxford (with an exhibition to Merton) to read classics. One contemporary was a certain William Hague.

Norman worked in the City, did some academic research and set up a charitable project in Eastern Europe as the Berlin Wall teetered. He delivered new Western medical textbooks to doctors in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Seeing the effects of communism up close only confirmed him in his ripening Toryism. He was over 40 by the time he became an MP – late by modern standards. He may have had to do some greasing to younger politicos but, once he was in the Commons, he learned that being a yes-man is no life.

He is married to Kate Bingham, a life-sciences egghead whose late dad, Tom, was Master of the Rolls. The Binghams were a hearty lot, devoted to bracing weekends in Wales. Maybe they encouraged the son-in-law to sharpen his flinty side. Norman started as a Cameroon but fell out with the PM over House of Lords reforms. His chances of a ministerial career receded, so he took the select-committees route. On the Treasury Committee, he gave City grandee Lord Grabiner a savaging. It was like seeing a hungry archbishop attack a raw lamb chop. Now Norman is chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee. Juicy! And, within weeks of landing the job, he upset runner Paula Radcliffe by arguably linking her name to anti-drugs investigations. Jesse blamed the media, saying journos had behaved like a 'herd of ungulates'. Cue much rifling through dictionaries.

There are punchier vulgarians but he's no slouch at the man-of-the-people stuff. He was recently found, white-hatted, at the ovens in a Ross-on-Wye bakery, learning how his constituents work and earn. His pin-ups may include Kant, Haydn and Louis Armstrong (Jesse himself is a trumpeter), but he has spoken up for his local football team, Hereford FC. A little more aggro, and who knows what he might achieve? As he parps away on his new tenor sax, channelling João Gilberto's 'Insensatez', Jesse Norman may not entirely have given up thoughts of one day bumping his head on the ceiling of Downing Street's Cabinet Room.

Quentin Letts writes for the Daily Mail.

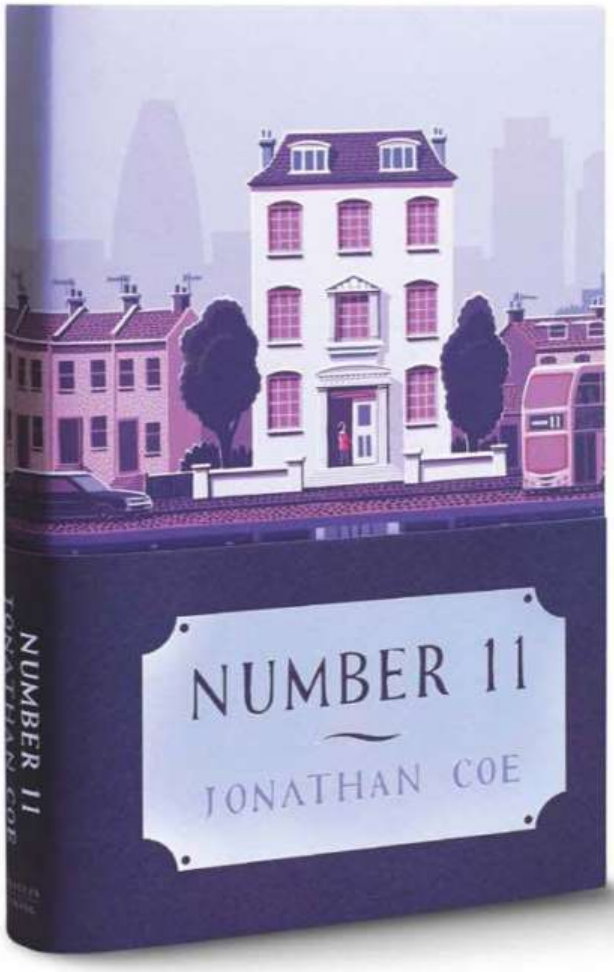
Illustrated by GERALD SCARFE

PHOTOGRAPHS: REX FEATURES, OLDDESIGNSHOP.COM

Books



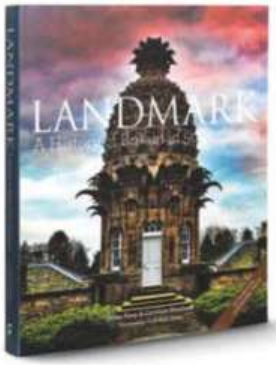
Zigzagging through the zeitgeist with zip. By Sebastian Shakespeare



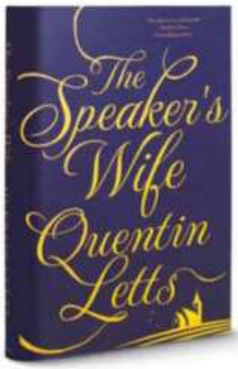
NUMBER 11 BY JONATHAN COE *(Viking, £16.99)*
Jonathan Coe has established himself as one of the most entertaining chroniclers of our times. *The Rotters' Club*, *What a Carve Up!* and *The Closed Circle* were respectively set in the Seventies, Eighties and Nineties, and he skewered those decades perfectly. His latest novel brings us up to date, careening through the Noughties to now. The narrative takes the form of five stories that revolve around two women, Rachel and Alison, childhood friends whose lives go in different directions after an encounter with the Mad Bird Woman when they're 10. Rachel graduates from Oxford and becomes a private tutor to the rich and privileged; Alison struggles with both her own sexuality and her indebted ex-minor-pop-star mother's catastrophic appearance on *I'm A Celebrity...*

Coe wonderfully captures their age of innocence and how it's brought to an end by the Iraq War and reality TV. The subsequent episodes become progressively more madcap, linked by an absorption with conspiracy theories that's both playful and serious. We follow a man's obsessive search for a magical film he watched on television as a young boy; an extravagantly mocked police detective investigates the suspicious death of comedians; a Romanian dog-walker has a murky role to play. While the plot does meander, it also allows Coe to indulge his abundant talent for social observation and black comedy.

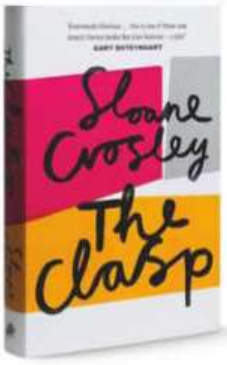
He has an enviable lightness of touch and is brilliant at portraying the lunacy of our time, when bankers need iceberg houses and their neighbours need food banks. He is often satirical, always compassionate.



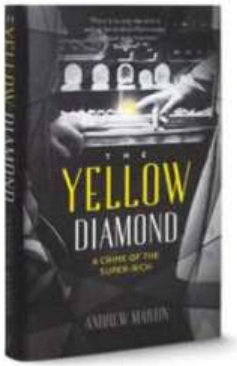
LANDMARK: A HISTORY OF BRITAIN IN 50 BUILDINGS BY ANNA KEAY AND CAROLINE STANFORD *(Frances Lincoln, £25)*
A landmark book for the Landmark Trust. This handsome tome marks the 50th birthday of a charity that has preserved nearly 200 buildings. Hurrah! From medieval cottages to picturesque pavilions and glorious castles, this lavishly illustrated book examines the stories of their inhabitants and the trust's supremely meticulous restoration work.



THE SPEAKER'S WIFE BY QUENTIN LETTS *(Constable, £16.99)*
No, not a biography of Sally Bercow! This brilliant and utterly engrossing debut novel is both a lively political satire and a state-of-the-nation polemic. When a London church shelters a young man being chased by the police for making an explosive anti-Islamic protest, the pillars of the Establishment teeter. The author's Wodehousian relish of the English language is infectious.



THE CLASP BY SLOANE CROSLEY *(Hutchinson, £12.99)*
Part comedy of manners, part adventure story, this is an inspired first novel from a New York writer hailed by David Sedaris as 'perfectly, relentlessly funny'. A group of friends reunite at a friend's wedding and are told about a valuable necklace that disappeared during the Nazi occupation of France. They then embark on a hare-brained journey from Miami to Paris. It's a blast from start to finish.



THE YELLOW DIAMOND BY ANDREW MARTIN *(Faber, £14.99)*
Here's a sparkling crime novel set in modern-day Mayfair amid vulgar Russian oligarchs and flashy Arabs. When the head of a police unit investigating the super-rich is shot in mysterious circumstances, DI Blake Reynolds investigates. He duly uncovers a jewellery theft, a beautiful woman and more than he bargained for. Hugely enjoyable, beautifully written and cleverly au courant. □

PHOTOGRAPHS: PSC

Restaurants



Holy cow – this is one juicy steak joint. By Jeremy Wayne



So you think you know about steak, huh? Well, think again, bud, because at **Smith & Wollensky**, the American steakhouse that recently opened just off the Strand, beef just got bigger, thicker and juicier. Originally launched in 1977 on New York's Third Avenue, Smith & Wollensky now has restaurants in eight US cities, but London is its first overseas site.

And what a site it is. Located in the art-deco Adelphi Building, the two-floor restaurant has been designed by Martin Brudnizki (where hasn't, you may ask?). And this has to be Brud's finest hour: a knock-your-socks-off ground-floor room with a copper-coloured tray ceiling, Beardsley-esque panels and a mile-long bar where a well-drilled army of bartenders will mix you a negroni and serve it in a proper lead-crystal tumbler with ice cubes the size of Rubik's Cubes. And the high-ceilinged basement restaurant is no less impressive, with a separate bar and wood-panelling that could hold its own with the reading room of the New York Public Library.

HOW MUCH
£220 for two
WHAT TO EAT
USDA Prime dry-aged beef, chocolate cake
WHAT TO DRINK
Negronis, California, Oregon or Washington State wines



FILET MIGNON WITH GORGONZOLA AT SMITH & WOLLENSKY

A teetering tower of squeaky-fresh shellfish is a pretty good way to start. It comes presented on a traditional étagère, with a sherry mignonette for the oysters, as well as a classic cocktail sauce. But no matter what you choose for a starter, it is but a prelude to the beef itself. USDA Prime dry-aged steaks, like S&W's signature 24oz ribeye, or the even more flavourful 14oz sirloin, butchered in-house and dry-aged for 28 days, are both things of beauty to behold – and consume. And with side orders of creamed spinach and buttermilk onion rings the size of cuff bracelets, no one goes home hungry. There's an exceptional wine list too. We drank a 2012 Grgich Hills fumé blanc, full of razzmatazz, and a sunny, plummy 2012 Stag's Leap Artemis, both from Napa.

Pudding is a no-brainer. It has to be a slab – eight inches across and six deep – of chocolate layer cake; brought to the table with its own canister of cold whipped cream, it needs a health warning attached, as well as a private ambulance on speed-dial.

With the arrival of Smith & Wollensky, it's fair to say power dining is back. Shoulder pads and big hair could well follow. You've been warned. *The Adelphi, 1–11 John Adam Street, WC2 (smithandwollensky.co.uk; 020 7321 6007).*



ARTICHOKE & ASPARAGUS SALAD AT LES DEUX SALONS

SIDE ORDERS

LES DEUX SALONS

40–42 William IV Street, WC2 (020 7420 2050)

PICK ME!

This is my dream restaurant, relaunched earlier this year by Sir Terence Conran. And that's because I love a proper brasserie, one with a menu that practically sings 'La Marseillaise'. With lobster bisque and Anjou pigeon, Les Deux Salons can leave its chequered history firmly behind. And, frankly, who doesn't love a firm behind?

L'ATELIER DE JOEL ROBUCHON

13–15 West Street, WC2 (020 7010 8600)

After stints in New York and Taiwan, Xavier Boyer, who helped launch London's L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon in 2006, is back at the helm. Try the counter, where the cool folk hang, or head upstairs to La Cuisine, where everyone else squeezes in. Confit tuna and lemongrass seabass are the dishes to go for.

LES 110 DE TAILLEVENT

16 Cavendish Square, W1 (020 3141 6016)

The Gardinier brothers are the lucky owners of Reims's Les Crayères, as well as Taillevent in Paris and its less formal sibling, Les 110 de Taillevent, which offers 110 wines by the glass to accompany its simple, classic French dishes. Now a branch of Les 110 has landed in a former Coutts building in Mayfair – and it's worth the cost of a royal overdraft.

THE BARFLY The Connaught Bar

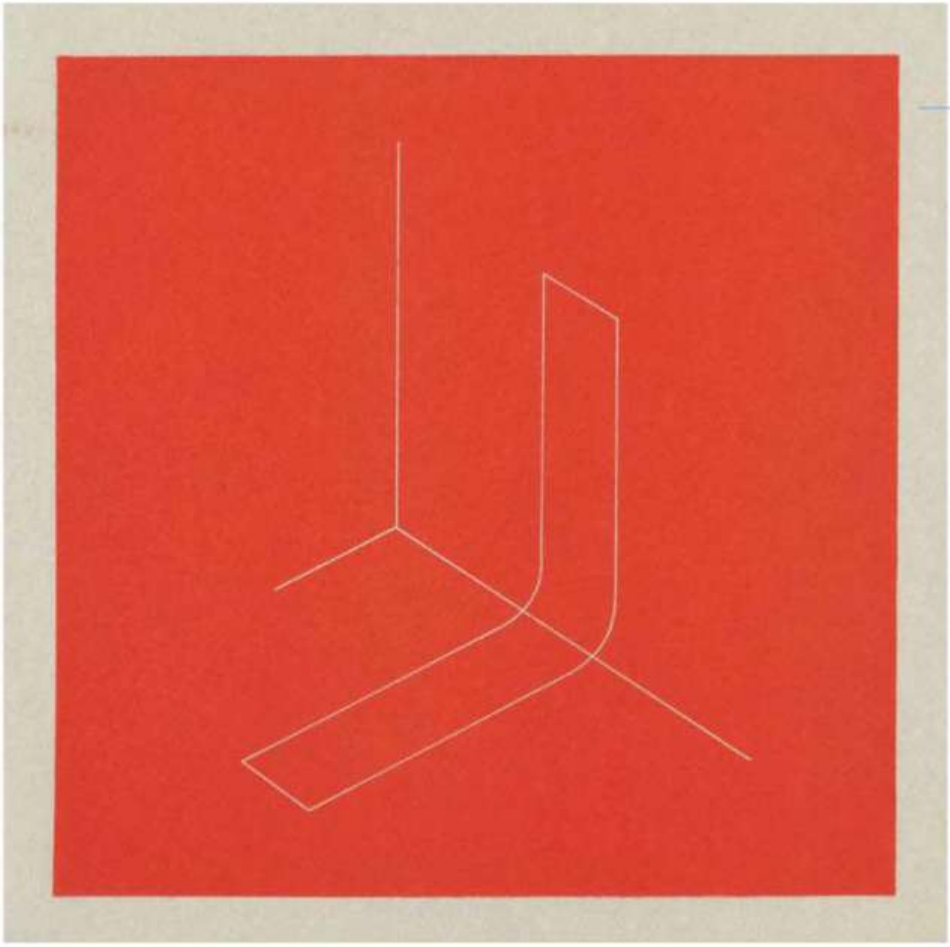
It's all very well knowing where to go for a drink, but it's also a good idea to learn how to make a decent one. Which is why you'll find me hurrying to the Connaught Bar to study the art of the cocktail with the hotel's master mixologist, Agostino Perrone. Classes are held on the last Saturday of the month; the November session is on Masters of Whisky, promising a 'sensory journey from Scotland and Ireland to Kentucky and Japan'. See you there. *At the Connaught, Carlos Place, W1 (020 7499 7070); £150 per person.*



Art for sale



Face time, a line romance and Jurassic art. By Josh Spero



STRING THEORY (£3,600)

UNTITLED (1979) BY FRED SANDBACK

WHY BUY Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's one of Fred Sandback's 2D prints, exploring his 3D sculptures made out of string. OK, you could be forgiven for thinking Sandback was aiming at a simply depicted object here – but that's wrong. It's a way of evoking his sculptures, in which he stretched yarn across spaces in different patterns and shapes, carving form out of formlessness. What's most charming about this picture is that lines so ordinary contain such a radical vision and challenge our assumption that the flat is just that.

WHEN Until 11 November.

WHERE Sims Reed Gallery, 30 Bury Street, SW1 (simsreed.com).



FACIAL WORK (POA)

DAVID LANDAU SEATED (2013–15) BY FRANK AUERBACH

WHY BUY Now, you might fairly be miffed if you asked an artist to paint a portrait of you and it came back looking like this – he'd have missed your Roman nose, your glowing cheeks, your basic 'face-iness'. But what Auerbach is searching for is not the mere skin-and-bones we often mistake for our selves, but our true essence, and he does that by painting his subjects repeatedly over decades, sometimes taking years for each picture. His deliberate yet loose style, combined with his intense concentration, summons something profoundly personal. Think of it as an Instagram filter for the soul.

WHEN Until 21 November.

WHERE Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (marlboroughfineart.com).



ROARSOME (EST. £300,000–£500,000)

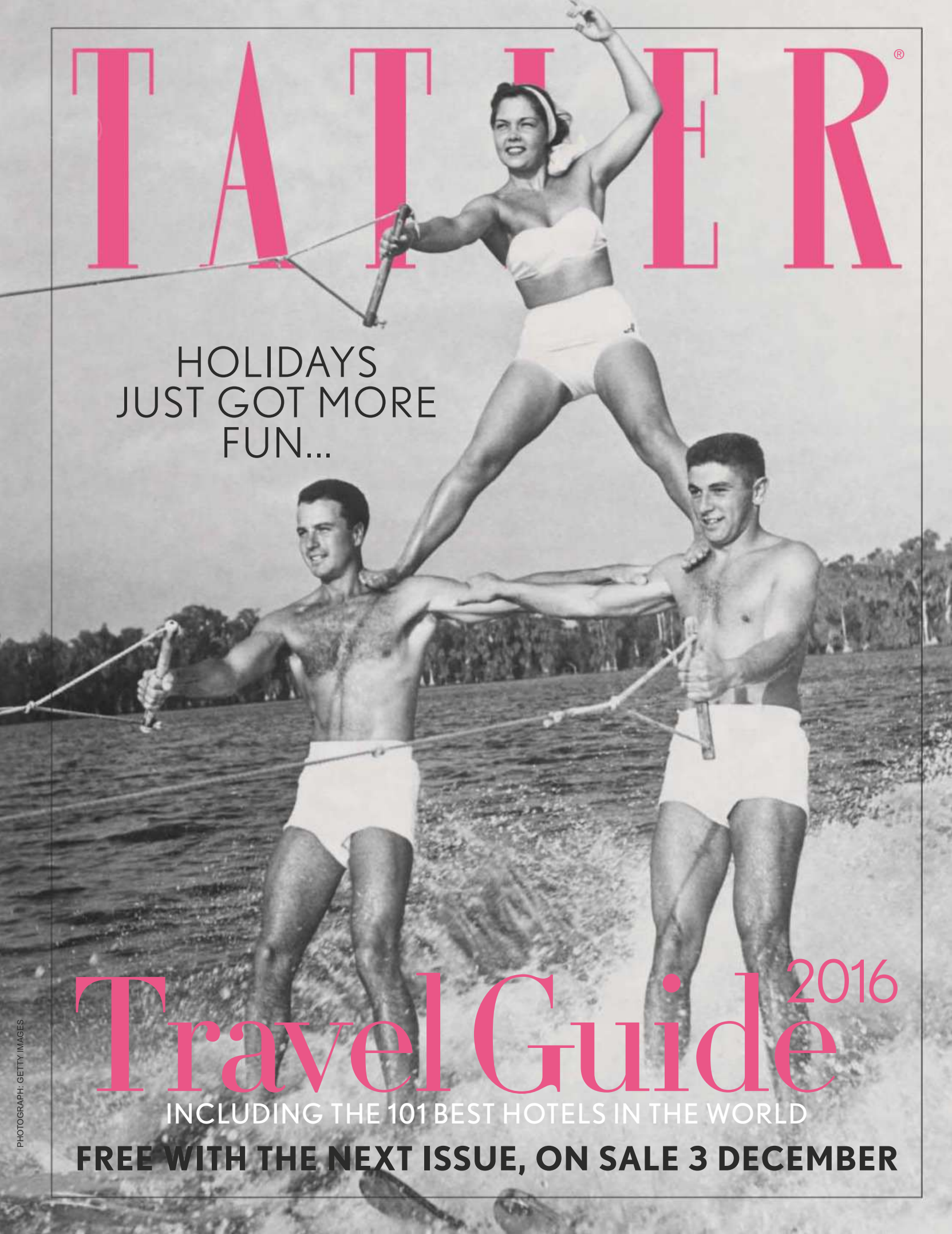
ALLOSAURUS SKELETON (155,000,000–145,000,000 BC)

WHY BUY I sometimes look around my flat and think: you know what this place could do with? A three-metre high, nine-metre long dinosaur. Legally obtained natural objects like ancient skeletons, twisting ammonite fossils or richly coloured crystals deserve just as much of a place in your collection as paintings and sculptures, because they have an innate glory that even the most finely crafted artwork can never attain. This is what I like to call found art – a genius may not have had a hand in its design, but it's still beautiful. Snap it up!

WHEN 25 November.

WHERE Summers Place Auctions, Billingshurst, West Sussex (summersplaceauctions.com).

PHOTOGRAPHS: © FRANK AUERBACH, COURTESY OF MARLBOROUGH FINE ART, © FRED SANDBACK ARCHIVE, © GLYNN CLARKSON FOR SUMMERS PLACE AUCTIONS


TATLER
HOLIDAYS
JUST GOT MORE
FUN...
Travel Guide 2016
INCLUDING THE 101 BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD
FREE WITH THE NEXT ISSUE, ON SALE 3 DECEMBER
PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES

Gadgets



Amazing American Gadgets For Your Kitchen – and, to stay on theme, I have managed to crowbar alcohol or bacon into every one. By Emma Freud

MADE IN THE USA



Gummy-bear maker



Watermelon keg



Nibble cake pan



Banana filler



Bacon-bowl maker



Mini-donut factory

GUMMY-BEAR MAKER

Whenever I write travel articles, I rate hotels by whether or not they have gummy bears in the minibar. To me, they are as crucial as the hairdryer, being the only sweet you can eat by the vat at midnight and still get into your jeans the next day. I mean, it's just gum, FFS. The Americans take them so seriously that there is now a kit for making your own. Heat up the gummy goo in the pot, pour it into the chilled moulds below, and boof, you have sweetie heaven. And here's a gorgeous idea... try lacing your gum mix with vodka and make grown-up party bears. *£31.49 at lakeland.co.uk*

WATERMELON KEG

I wish I had invented this one. Cut the bottom off a watermelon, scoop out the insides and stick the watermelon tap on the outside. It's groovy for dispensing any cold drinks, but this is the dream filling – The Watermelon Mojito. In a blender, put two handfuls of watermelon flesh, a cup of rum, a cup of ice, half a cup of lime juice and a fistful of sugar. Blend them all together – then, when it's blitzed and resembling liquid heaven, throw in a handful of chopped mint leaves. Chuck it into the Watermelon Keg and serve. Helpful tip: cut down on the washing-up by not bothering with a glass – just position your mouth directly below the tap and pour it straight in. *£21.42 at kegworks.com*

NIBBLE CAKE PAN

This is what I love about baking: jeopardy. This is what I don't love about baking: weighing things. So here's what I do these days – into a blender I put one pack of butter, about double the butter volume in sugar, about triple the butter volume in ground almonds or flour, four eggs and a teaspoon of baking powder. Then, when it's all looking like batter, I throw in some fruit (fresh raspberries or chopped peaches, or bourbon-soaked prunes or cooked rhubarb, or whatever) and bake at 180 degrees till it's golden and looks like cake. Random as that may sound, it's mostly stunningly delicious, but in truth it sometimes ends up like the cake equivalent of the Battle of the Somme. So... with this cake tin, you get a chance to judge it before putting it on the table in front of Mary Berry, meaning you never need see her make *the face* or hear her say the words, 'Darling, this bake is shite.' *£11.99 at iwantoneofthose.com*

BANANA FILLER

How have we lasted this long without the DestapaBanana? Seriously. It's a long, thin syringe that bores a long, thin hole down the middle of an unpeeled banana. You then fill the hole with salted-caramel goo, peel your banana, and you have Banana with a Caramel Centre – 50 per cent less healthy, but 50 per cent more delicious. If that's not alcoholic enough for you, then make a thin sauce out of rum and coconut cream and insert that instead, for something I'd like to call an Upright Piña Colada. If the unhealthy bit worries you, do what the Californians do and fill it with gluten-free, wheatgrass-and-spirulina-enriched chia-seed-and-kale purée. *In development*

BACON-BOWL MAKER

Here's what I know about bacon: 1) On average, every person in the UK eats 17 pounds of bacon per year – that is equivalent to eating the weight of my insanely fat cat, Badger. If you could see Badger, you would know how shocking yet truly delicious that idea is. 2) New York eats more bacon than any city in the world. (I now live in New York. Go figure.) 3) One slice of bacon only has 43 calories. That's fewer calories than an apple, making bacon the new diet food, according to me. 4) This microwaveable gadget turns three rashers of bacon into a sturdy bacon bowl – ideal for filling with more bacon. #bacon *£15.99 at amazon.co.uk*

MINI-DONUT FACTORY

No need to thank me, but I have had a fantastic new enterprise idea. FIRST buy, rent or borrow one of these mini-donut factories – it makes 30 proper, fried mini-donuts per batch and only takes 90 seconds to cook them. THEN invent your own sugar-coating flavour for them – may I suggest bacon? Think about it: slightly-candied-bacon-flavoured, sugar-topped, deep-fried donuts as the ideal healthy mid-morning snack of choice. See? Genius. FINALLY, serve them to your customers in Microwaved Bacon Bowls. YES! THAT IS HOW GLOBAL EMPIRES ARE CREATED! Good luck. I will be your first (and possibly last) customer. *£199 at buystore.uk*

*With this cake tin, you never need see Mary Berry make *the face* or hear her say the words, 'Darling, this bake is shite'*

NEXT MONTH GADGETS THAT GLITTER

This is me on Twitter – @emmafreud



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THISISFURNOW.COM

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fur - the natural responsible choice

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HONESTLY, DON'T GET ME ANYTHING BIG
Just three little letters –g.h.d.– will do
If leaving Christmas in their hands will only end in tears, point them to something you really want – like ghd's arctic gold range. Available only in the finest salons, premium retail stores and ghdhair.com. #hintghd
ghd
good hair day, every day

The GIFT LIST

DEVON IBIZA MAYFAIR SCOTLAND CAPE TOWN NORTH KENSINGTON VERBIER SUFFOLK HARBOUR ISLAND HACKNEY



Edited by SOPHIE GOODWIN

Annabel Rivkin presents the Great Global Christmas Guide. Whoever you are, wherever you are, she's got you all wrapped up

Photograph by MATTHEW SHAVE

WITH THANKS TO POM OGILVY & ANASTASIOS MOIRAS



CANDLE, £85, BY **DOLCE & GABBANA**



DRONE, £400, BY **PARROT**, AT **SELFRIDGES**



LEATHER TRAINERS, £175, BY **REEBOK CLASSIC X SANDRO**, AT **HARRODS**

CASHMERE JUMPER, £160, BY **WYSE LONDON**



TOOL KIT, £2,250, BY **THE CONRAN SHOP**, AT **SELFRIDGES**



CALFSKIN WALLET, £370, BY **FENDI**





TOY CAR, £95, BY **THE WHITE COMPANY**



GOLD, DIAMOND & LAPIS-LAZULI EARRINGS, £5,000, BY **SUSAN FOSTER**, AT **MATCHES FASHION.COM**



FRAGRANCE, £95, (PLUS £25 FOR PERSONALISED BOTTLE), BY **H PERFUME**

Suffolk

Media Manor, Powerstoft

CORDUROY DUNGAREES, £41, BY **DOTTY DUNGAREES**





SUEDE BAG, £280, BY **ELIZABETH AND JAMES**, AT **NET-A-PORTER**

Clever, caustic, glamorous, funny – and that's just the 10-year-olds. This is where social trends are set, where whole media initiatives get rolling. The only crime is boring. Anything else just adds colour. What to give the scary, powerful guys with everything? Well, something a bit sick but also playful. Like a drone. Or Wyse London (the new Chinti and Parker), Susan Foster (the new Solange) or metallic Reeboks (the new Converse). Lunch is fully staffed-up, so no need to worry about the washing-up, and there's lots of time to sit down and watch a DVD surrounded by the intimidatingly exquisite Christmas decorations (part Scarlet & Violet wreaths, part kids' clunky pottery work) – but only a film that doesn't come out for another few months. Or where's the fun??? ▷

PING-PONG PADDLE & COVER, £72 EACH, BY **JONATHAN ADLER**

STILL LIFES: PSC. WALLPAPERS: BARNEBY GATES (BARNEBYGATES.COM)

CHELSEA CHEER

Have yourself a merry little Christmas shopping weekend on 5 and 6 December. Tis the season...

What do you get when you mix the high-octane glamour of Chelsea with full-on festive fun? A Christmas shopping weekend like no other, that's what. On Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December, Cadogan Estates welcome you to a wonderfully seasonal event in the heart of one of London's most celebrated shopping areas. From couture houses on Sloane Street to affordable luxury on Duke of York Square this is *the* destination for shopping – brimming with delightful gift ideas at every turn. The fashion hotspot is also dotted with great restaurants and cocktail watering holes, so you can refuel in style. Take a stroll around Sloane Street, Duke of York Square, Sloane Square and all the surrounding streets to truly soak up the magic of this special weekend.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Chelsea will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland. Marvel at the twinkling lights and festive performers, take your children to one of London's best grottos and enjoy the gourmet gifts market at Duke of York Square (from 10am – 4pm each day). There's even a complimentary gift wrapping station! Prepare to feel all warm and fuzzy as carol singers croon old favourites. Meanwhile, a variety of in-store events – from refreshments and discounts to complimentary monogramming or engraving with purchase – will keep spirits high. Your Christmas starts here.



Illustration by Charlotte Farmer

For more information visit, inchelsea.co.uk



LEATHER BOTTLE CARRIER, £215, BY **OKA**



LEATHER BAG, £525, BY **TROY LONDON**



BOOTIES, £50, BY **UGG**, AT **JOHN LEWIS**



MATCH HOLDER, £165, **WILLIAM & SON**



CHOPPING BOARD, £15, BY **MARKS & SPENCER**



PLATE, £24, BY **ALICE PETO**



PARKA, £250, BY **JAEGER**



HAT, £299, BY **PENMAYNE**



GOLD & JADE RING, POA, BY **MING**



CALFSKIN BOOTS, £2,110, BY **HERMES**



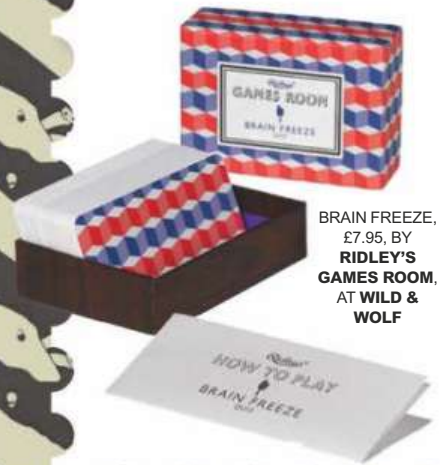
CANDLE, £51, BY **CIRE TRUDON**

Scotland

Luckylochy Castle, Inverperthshire



SILK BLOUSE, £175, BY **DONNA IDA**



BRAIN FREEZE, £7.95, BY **RIDLEY'S GAMES ROOM**, AT **WILD & WOLF**

Welcome to Scotland. Smart, fashionable Scotland. Nicola Sturgeon's nightmare before Christmas, basically. The vibe is slick but low-impact. Cosy but witty. The welcome is warm, the houses are chilly and midnight mass is bloody Baltic. Hence the parka – more comfortable than a Barbour to sleep (and pray) in. Smart house presents apply: OKA, Tom Dixon, Cire Trudon candles. Think Stella Tennant. Good-leather, label-less shoulder bags, perfect evening blouses to be worn with floor-length Alessandra Rich (what could be more chic?) skirts for Saturday-night shooting parties. The crockery will be covetable, the food – not so much. Take extra booze and extra layers and extra anecdotes. For the nights will be long. But not as long as the walks. ▷

STILL-LIFES, PSC. WALLPAPER, BARNEBY GATES



yvesdelormeparis.com

1 Ellis St, London SW1X - 168-170 Walton St, London SW3 - 13 Hinde St, London W1U - 11 Milsom Pl, Bath BA1 - 6 Royal Parade, Chislehurst BR7

Yves Delorme

PARIS



WATCH, £1,150, BY **HERMES** & **APPLE**

GOLD-FINISH SILVER & GEMSTONE RING, £229, BY **CARAT**, AT **HARRODS**



CASHMERE SCARF, £250, BY **BEGG & CO**



BRIDGE SET, £325, BY **BURBERRY PRORSUM**





LEATHER HEELS, £280, BY **CH CAROLINA HERRERA**



STRAW HAT, £125, BY **HEIDI KLEIN**

HANDBAG, £1,990, BY **VICTORIA BECKHAM**



COTTON PYJAMAS, £345, BY **OLIVIA VAN HALLE**





EMBROIDERED TULLE DRESS, £457, BY **BONPOINT**

GOLD & DIAMOND BRACELET, £995, BY **BAMFORD**



SUNGLASSES, £219, BY **CELINE**





POWDER COMPACT, £50, BY **DIOR**

Cape Town

Plentyberg House, Plentyberg Bay, Plentyberg

What's not to like about no jetlag, a lot of very nice wine and things generally just being easy on this well-trodden path? No, it's not Zanzibar. Or Lamu. But it's still Africa, and Africa is always an adventure. Albeit, in this case, a comfortable one with super-cheap lobster and heavenly local nannies. A civilised Christmas in the sun. High heels for dinner and smart, cosy cashmere/diamond presents hauled out – 'I thought you could wear it on the plane home, darling.' Clarins suncream and big-name sunnies, and jewellery and accessories because no one is pretending to be anything other than very lucky, and very spoilt and very bloody happy to be here. A sunny place for sunny people. Stinky hippies need not apply.



SWIMMING TRUNKS, £65, BY **SYNDICUT**

STILL-LIFES: PSC; WALLPAPERS: BARNEBY OATES



COTTON JUMPER, £365, BY **HENRY HOLLAND FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN**



SATCHEL, £155, BY **THE CAMBRIDGE SATCHEL COMPANY**



COPPER FORK & TROWEL SET, £20, BY **MARKS & SPENCER**



LEATHER HIGH-TOPS, £195, BY **COACH**



COPPER PHONE, £65, BY **WILD & WOLF**



STAINLESS STEEL & CANVAS WATCH, £139, BY **NEWGATE**, AT **JOHN LEWIS**



LIMITED-EDITION BICYCLE, £995, BY **MULBERRY**



ESSENCES INSENSEES, £100 FOR 75ML, BY **DIPTYQUE**



PASHMINA, £85, BY **SOMERVILLE SCARVES**

EARPHONES, £280, BY **PARROT**, AT **SELFRIDGES**



ROCKING DRAGON, £450, BY **STEIFF**



GOLD & BLACK-DIAMOND EARRINGS, £340, BY **I+I**

Hackney

Basement flat, 15 Not-As-Cheap-As-It-Used-To-Be Lane, London E8

East may be East, but Hackney is the Beast of East-London Sloane cool. It's East meets Brooklyn meets Bryanston. The huge Georgian flats help. Stuff in Hackney has an angle, an idea, an attitude. Heaven forbid it should be stuff for the sake of stuff. Jewellery is architected; T-shirts are drawlingly defiant of the fact that slogan-wear should really be over in this part of town. This is a mixture of homespun (pottery, gardening, chicken-breeding, bicycle-riding, music-making), slick (witty bags, zingy kitchen gubbins, beautiful tech-gear) and rather weird. Like this totally trippy rocking-dragon thing. Christmas in Hackney is open fires and homemade cranberry sauce and walks in the park and listening to the neighbours having sex. Because the soundproofing in these Georgian conversions is shocking. ▷



BLACK ORCHID, £45 FOR 30ML, BY **TOM FORD**, AT **SELFRIDGES**



JACKET, £2,800, BY **VIZELLE**



POLAROID STARTER KIT, £149, AT **SELFRIDGES**



SILVER NECKLACE, £85, BY **PANDORA**



KNICKERS, £40 EACH, BY **CHEEK FRILLS**



WHISKY, £145, BY **GLENMORANGIE**



HAND MIXER, £60, BY **DUALIT**



CLUTCH, £275, BY **LK BENNETT**



BUILDING BLOCKS, £4 EACH, BY **MYLA & OSCAR**



CUFF, £460, BY **LOUIS VUITTON**



TIC-TAC-TOE SET, £595, BY **RALPH LAUREN HOME**



NAIL POLISH, £18 EACH, BY **CHANEL**



BEANIE, £448, BY **HOCKLEY**



JEWELLERY BOX, £1,195, BY **SMYTHSON**

Verbier

Chalet Rah, Yah-sur-Sloane, Verbs

OK, so it's a tradition – a kind of initiation for newcomers – that you ski down that red run at midnight on Christmas Eve with a torch sellotaped to your forehead. Hardly anyone ends up in hospital, so best not to make a fuss. Neck a few shots and get it over with. From there on in, things get rather polite and just so. Smart slippers, staggeringly lovely jewellery boxes, pretty knickers in stockings and everything recorded on Polaroid because a) it's hilarious and b) they happen to be just as flattering as the photo booths that everyone has at their wedding. Bankers are given kitchen appliances because they've started cooking to wind down. Ladies get something sparkly, a clutch or an earring, and it's all absolutely bloody marvellous. Except the dog is back at home. Because the private-plane money has gone on school fees. Which is a little bit sad. But not a deal-breaker. ▷

STILL-LIFES: PSC. WALLPAPER: BARNEBY GATES



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Buy our specially drawn Quentin Blake Christmas Cards and support Survival International

Visit www.survivalinternational.org/shop
or call 020-7687 8700 for a catalogue

Quentin Blake for Survival

Survival

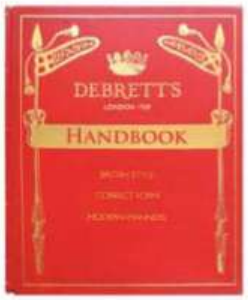
Survival International is the global movement for tribal peoples' rights

UK charity no. 267444



BOOTS, £1,390, BY **BRUNELLO CUCINELLI**

HANDBOOK, £35, BY **DEBRETT'S**





WWII AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE CAMERA, £3,828, BY **SIMON TEAKLE**, AT **MODA OPERANDI**



PINK-GOLD, DIAMOND & MALACHITE PENDANT, £3,150, BY **BULGARI**, AT **HARRODS**

CHRISTMAS CRACKER, £32, BY **JO MALONE**





TENT, £145, BY **FIELDCANDY**



CREAMER, £338, BY **HERMES**



PADDINGTON BEAR, £59.95, AT **HARRODS**



NUBUCK & PYTHON BAG, £3,300, BY **ASPREY**

STEEL & TITANIUM WATCH, £3,495, BY **RAYMOND WEIL**

Mayfair

Currency House, 22 Hedgefund Row, London W1

Christmas in Mayfair is a thoroughly English affair. English food, wonderfully served in beautifully appointed English houses all done in traditional English style by people who aren't English. Course they aren't. English people can't afford to live in Mayfair. So this is Fortnum's blended with Harrods, with a healthy dollop of Burberry, and then something witty from Moda Operandi for the Renaissance oligarchs among us. The table setting may be Asprey (or Hermès for the more exotically minded), with Jo Malone crackers at every place. Caviar will flow freely, as will champagne and claret (some English wine dealer in knackered old brogues has done rather well out of this), but it won't be a late night, because first thing the next morning the family will decamp to sun or snow. ▷



COLONIA CLUB, £57 FOR 50ML, BY **ACQUA DI PARMA**

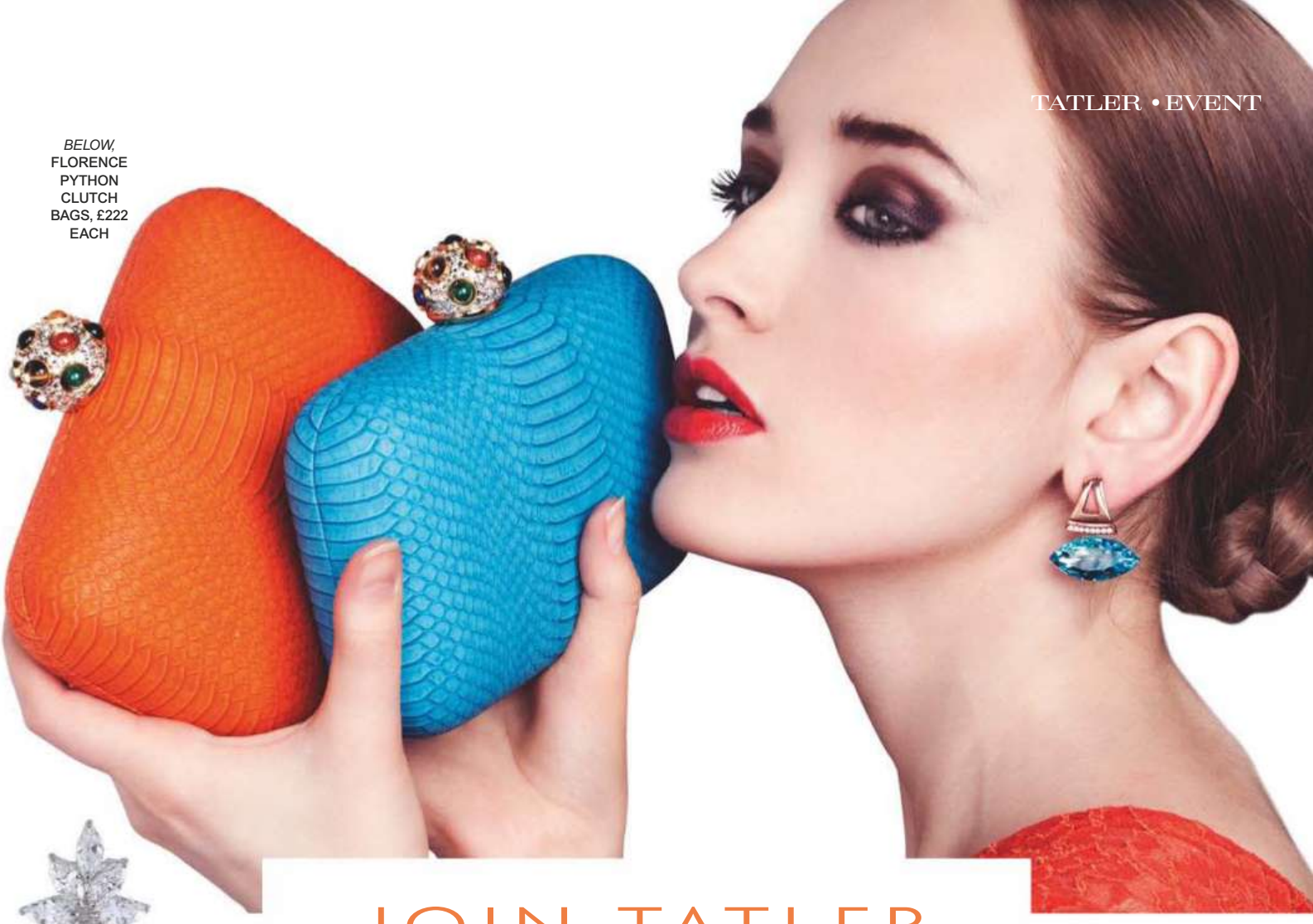


CHAMPAGNE FLUTES, £95 FOR TWO, BY **THOMAS LYTE**



BATHROBE, £190, BY **MISSONI HOME**

STILL-LIFES: PSC. WALLPAPER: BARNEBY GATES



BELOW, FLORENCE PYTHON CLUTCH BAGS, £222 EACH

JOIN TATLER AND AMISHI

FOR AN EXCLUSIVE SHOPPING EVENING

AT THE AMISHI STORE

45 MADDOX STREET, LONDON W1

ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015

6.30PM - 8.30PM



ABOVE, GREEN STONE EARRINGS, £279. *BELOW,* METAL CLUTCH, £149



WHAT'S GOING ON?

Tatler and Amishi invite you to an exclusive, festive shopping evening. Our acting retail editor Karen Deeks will give a trend-focused talk and offer Christmas shopping advice. Meanwhile, Amishi herself will be in attendance to discuss the latest collections. With 15% discounts on the night, a special gift with purchases over £500, plus bubbles, canapés and a prize up for grabs, this event is not to be missed.

TO BOOK

Visit tatleramishi.eventbrite.co.uk Tickets cost £10 and are redeemable against any item of £50 or more. Tickets are non-refundable and issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited places are available so book now!



LEFT, BLUE STONE RING, £99



CASHMERE SWEATER, £375; BOTTOMS, £350, BOTH BY **CHINTI AND PARKER**



BEANIE, £245, BY **CLUB MONACO**

FOLDABLE KAYAK, £6,435, BY **MODA OPERANDI**



GOLD, WHITE-GOLD & CITRINE RING, £2,650, BY **ALICE CICOLINI**

PINEAPPLE CUSHION, £48, BY **JESSICA RUSSELL FLINT**



LEATHER TOTE, £1,950, BY **SOPHIE HULME**, AT **FENWICK**



SPARKLING WINE, £31.99, BY **NYETIMBER**



RUBBER CHELSEA BOOTS, £90, BY **HUNTER**



Devon

Free-For-All Hall, Nr. Down-The-Hatch, Sexmoor

Oh, the many faces of Devonia. Windswept but cosy, cosy, cosy. Bucolic but drunk, drunk, drunk. Beachy and bracing... and oddly athletic, when everyone is dragged off to surf on Christmas morning (wetsuits are for wusses). But then cosy again. Pissed while arranging holly and berries and singing along to the King's College Choir. Hammered while learning to juggle on top of a hill with a smart new hip flask and a renewed sense of WONDER. Hungover while taking a fortifying bath full of a herbal potion and then leaping through puddles in ankle-length Hunter boots. The turkey is burnt. Who cares? As long as there are potatoes and loads of gravy. Out of red wine? No prob! Let's move on to tequila. Everything is pretty here. And a bit poetic. And rich-hippie bohemian. Not quite chuck-your-car-keys-on-the-Christmas-tree. But not that far off either. Real life seems universes away. These guys actually hold down some quite serious jobs. ▷



PERSONALISED LEATHER HIP FLASK, £45, BY **ASPINAL OF LONDON**



JUGGLING BALLS, £6 FOR SET OF THREE, BY **MARKS & SPENCER**



BATH POTION, £27.50, BY **MOA**



WASHBAG, £60, BY **OTIS BATTERBEE**

STILL LIFES: PSC; WALLPAPER: BARNEBY GATES

FREE CHRISTMAS MAGAZINE

Christmas *unwrapped*

In association with Harrods

Plus WIN £1,000 *to spend at Harrods**

*SEE TERMS AND CONDITIONS INSIDE DECEMBER ISSUE



Your essential guide to getting it right and doing it with style

WITH THE DECEMBER ISSUE, ON SALE NOVEMBER 5

HOUSE & GARDEN



SUNGLASSES, £200, BY **ETRO**



BEAUTY PRODUCTS, FROM £25, BY **RODIN**

BACKGAMMON SET, £395, BY **JONATHAN ADLER**





COTTON DRESS, £166, BY **WIGGY KIT**

ESPADRILLES, £315, BY **SAINT LAURENT**



EVEROSE-GOLD WATCH, £25,100, BY **ROLEX**



SERUM, £215, BY **DR SEBAGH**

CLUTCH, £120, BY **MELISSA ODABASH**





VELOUR BEAR SUIT, £65, BY **MARIE-CHANTAL**

Harbour Island

Barefoot Cottage, Barefoot Town (province of Billionaire)



FAUX-LEATHER LUGGAGE, FROM £120, BY **STEAMLINE LUGGAGE**



CUBIC- ZIRCONIA & AGATE EARRINGS, £110, BY **AMISHI**

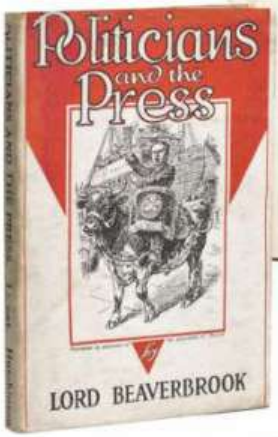
Goa for billionaires. Arrive by private plane and then spend the rest of the week pretending to be normal. But knowing we're not – oh, the relief. This is the sharp end of Caribbean fashion – Marant meets Etro meets Céline. High, high, high end, mixed with 'finds' from markets and perhaps one ironic piece of Zara. Quite a lot of oversized men's watches on ladies. Long dinners fuelled by Domaines Ott. Who needs Hertford Street when you can stroll down this pink-sand beach and bump into your last husband, your current husband and your next husband while waving (a totally toned arm) to the kids on their paddleboard? Christmas presents are carefully sourced (often by skilful PAs) and Fedexed with the big baggage for that Father-Christmas-magical-delivery feel. Hand luggage only on the plane, please.

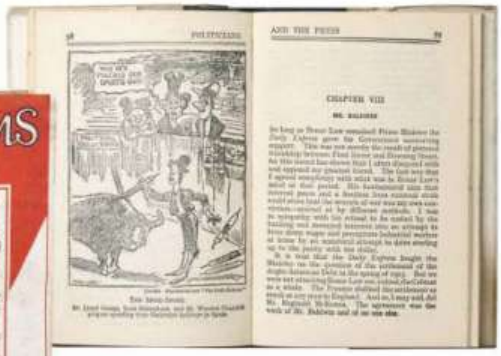


ESPRESSO MUG, £15, BY **O.W. LONDON**

STILL-LIFES: PSC. WALLPAPERS: BARNEBY GATES

BOOK, £68, AT **HENRY SOTHERAN LTD**







COAT, £450, BY **CLAUDIE PIERLOT**



FOUNTAIN PEN, £145, BY **MONTEGRAPPA**

LEATHER BAG, FROM £990, BY **GIVENCHY**



MEN'S MOISTURISER, £165, BY **SISLEYUM**



FURNITURE POLISH, £7, BY **DAYLESFORD**



GLASS, £40 (FOR SET OF TWO), BY **LSA INTERNATIONAL**

GOLD & DIAMOND RING, £4,100 BY **SOPHIE BILLE BRAHE**

North Kensington

32 Bullingdon Avenue, London W10



SHOES, £395, BY **BIONDA CASTANA FOR AWAKE**



RADIO, £199, BY **RUARK AUDIO**



DIFFUSER, £50, BY **WICK & TALLOW**

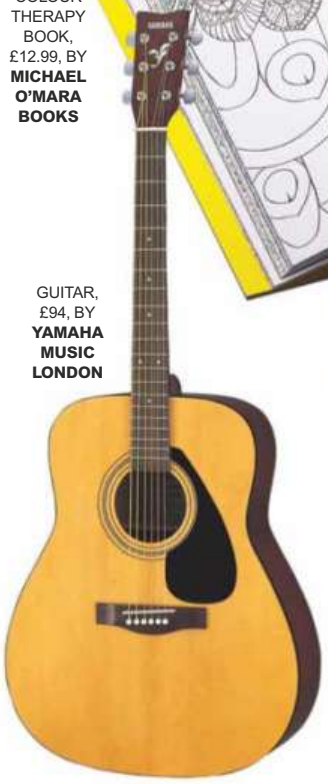
LEATHER GLOVES, £310, BY **CHRISTOPHER KANE**



North Kensington is the thinking Sloane's manor. No red trousers here, thanks very much. The girls creative-direct in difficult leather skirts. Or maybe they're lawyers. The boys write books. Or maybe they're Prime Minister. The houses are textured and the art is good but not obvious... and the conversation? Well, best to stay on toes. Skincare is hallowed Sisley (gratefully received but not bought – on account of its price). Jewellery is extremely expensive and sparing. Radio 4 is always on until noon and then a surprisingly good playlist takes over. Hot jazz version of Christmas carols. Maybe in French. Who knew? No one drinks much at lunch – they're still hungover from an impromptu Christmas Eve mash-up with the people next door. And there's the car to load up, as everyone's off to the country on Boxing Day morning. Last year they packed drunk and no one had any knickers for a week. ▷



COLOUR THERAPY BOOK, £12.99, BY **MICHAEL O'MARA BOOKS**



GUITAR, £94, BY **YAMAHA MUSIC LONDON**



LEATHER & FABRIC SANDALS, £42, BY **PALMAIRA**



CANDLE, £48, BY **MINDFUL SENSES**



GOLD & BLUE-DIAMOND NECKLACE, £2,500, BY **ASTLEY CLARKE**



LYCRA BRA, £54; LEGGINGS, £72, BOTH BY **THE UPSIDE**, AT **MATCHESFASHION.COM**





CLUTCH, £450, BY **ANYA HINDMARCH**



RABBIT NIGHT LIGHT, £13, BY **BONPOINT**



DENIM SWIMSUIT, £310, BY **LISA MARIE FERNANDEZ**



GOLD & WHITE-DIAMOND RING, £815, BY **JADE JAGGER**

Ibiza

Can C'aan Ca'an, Nr. Santa Euphoria

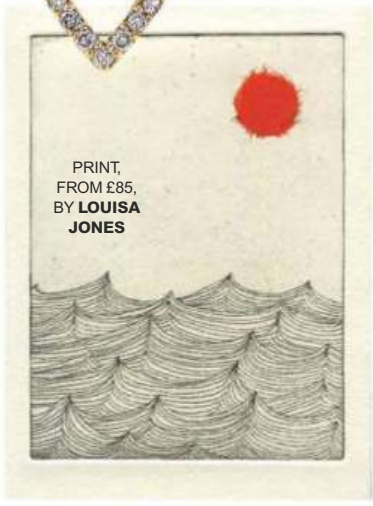
The party isle. Woo-hoo! And yet... peace and quiet. The relief. The release. The... well... OK, no one expected it to be quite this quiet. Quite this empty. So it really is me-time. Not me-time in a packed Notting Hill power-pilates class, but actual have-a-think, learn-a-skill, talk-to-your-children space. Thought it might be sunny? Well, it might be. But it probably won't be. So it's gym and swim and flat shoes and one dinner out in a week and a bit of 'Should we have done St Barth's?' and the occasional 'Might as well have stayed at home'. But in the end, nothing can beat the smugness of being able to say, 'Off-season is the really magical time – that's when you can properly connect with the spirituality of the island,' while simultaneously booking the villa for all of August. Or maybe Formentera would be more insider? Best book both. □



ROSE-GOLD BRACELET, £800, BY **ALEMDARA**



FLOWER REMEDIES, £25 EACH, BY **ALEXIS SMART**, AT **SELFRIDGES**



PRINT, FROM £85, BY **LOUISA JONES**

STILL-LIFES: PSC. WALLPAPER: BARNEBY GATES



IT'S A WRAP

In a Christmas shopping muddle? All tied up in knots? Never fear. Here in one perfect parcel is a selection of the prettiest, shiniest, booziest gifts out there – bound to delight naughty and nice alike

Photographed by Omer Knaz

STYLED BY GAVIN SHAW & SAMANTHA BROWNSTEIN



HENNESSY

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, HENNESSY 250 COLLECTOR BLEND 1L, £360. HENNESSY PARADIS IMPERIAL 70CL, £1,595. HENNESSY X.O 70CL, £135

Oh my! Can't you just taste that golden deliciousness, that rich warming flavour. Hennessy truly is pure indulgence bottled. This year marks the iconic cognac's 250th anniversary – *years* of craftsmanship in every sip

AVAILABLE AT
HENNESSY.COM/UKSHOP

Representing over 128 years of leather goods and stationery at their most refined, Smythson quite simply has the perfect present for the gentlemen and ladies on your gift list



SMYTHSON

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP,
MARA JEWELLERY BOX WITH TRAVEL TRAY IN POINSETTIA RED, £1,195. MARA CARD CASE WITH SLIDE IN POINSETTIA RED, £145. MARA HEART KEYRING IN POINSETTIA RED, £65. GROSVENOR SINGLE RING BOX, £125. WAFER 'WONDERLAND' NOTEBOOK IN WHITE, £35.

AVAILABLE AT SMYTHSON.COM

JEWELLERY KINDLY PROVIDED BY BOODLES



DR SEBAGH

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, DR SEBAGH SUPREME EYE SERUM, £95. DR SEBAGH PLATINUM GOLD ELIXIR SERUM, £395 FOR PACK OF FOUR. DR SEBAGH SIGNATURE SERUM, £475. DR SEBAGH SUPREME MAINTENANCE YOUTH SERUM, £215. DR SEBAGH ROSE DE VIE SERUM DÉLICAT, £129

Dreaming of a bright Christmas? Treat someone to the iconic Dr Sebagh skin care serums, the gift that keeps on glowing

AVAILABLE AT DRSEBAGH.COM



BELUGA

BELUGA NOBLE VODKA, £46.99

Give some festive spirit with provenance. Beluga Noble Russian Vodka's unmistakable flavour comes from its unique, natural Siberian blend. A connoisseur's dream gift

AVAILABLE AT SELFRIDGES AND OTHER PREMIUM OUTLETS



MINDFUL SENSES

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE, HEROIC (BROWN), HEARTFELT (BRIGHT PINK), HOPEFUL (BLUE), HEALTHY (TEAL), HYPNOTIC (PURPLE), HARMONY (YELLOW), EACH CANDLE, £48. 100% SOYA WAX AND MADE BY ARTISANS IN THE UK

Feeling burned out? Fragrance can offer more than just scent. This collection of six luxury candles not only looks pretty, but also helps set the mood – a balanced, restorative mood that is!

AVAILABLE AT MINDFULSENSES.COM



NYETIMBER

***FROM LEFT TO RIGHT*, BLANC DE BLANCS 2007, £39.99. CLASSIC CUVEE 2010, £31.99. DEMI-SEC NV, £32.99**

A sparkling wine for a sparkling season. Why not serve a British original to guests this year? Celebrate Christmas with a bottle of Nyetimber

NYETIMBER.COM

ASPINAL

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, PASSPORT COVER, £45. MINI MARYLEBONE TOTE, £595. SILVER-PLATED STAR KEYRING, £45. SCARLETT BOX CLUTCH, £595. HEART COIN PURSE, £50

Fun, colourful and bursting with character, Aspinal is the go-to gift emporium for those in the know. Make things personal with Aspinal's utterly bespoke handbags and monogram service. Delightful

AVAILABLE AT ASPINALOFLONDON.COM





BONPOINT

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT,
CERISE DOLL, PART OF CHRISTMAS SET, £216.
LONG DRESS IN EXCLUSIVE LIBERTY PRINT AND BLUE SPARKLY TULLE, £457.
MULTI-COLOURED GLITTER BALLET SLIPPERS, £160.
LONG DRESS IN MILK-WHITE COTTON KNIT AND TULLE WITH RHINESTONES, £381.
PINK PATENT LEATHER MARY-JANES, £180

Give your little darlings an enchanting wardrobe worthy of a princess with tulle, rhinestones and sparkly sequins

AVAILABLE AT BONPOINT.COM



MARC JACOBS PERFUME

MARC JACOBS DECADENCE EAU DE PARFUM, 50ML, £69

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LADY KITTY SPENCER WEARS SILK GOWN, £3,800, BY **EMILIA WICKSTEAD**, AT **HARVEY NICHOLS**

KITTY POWER

Lady Kitty Spencer has not let her background define her – the death of her aunt, Diana, Princess of Wales, her parents' divorce, her mother's troubles with addiction. Instead, she has turned every obstacle into something positive. She opens up to Gavanndra Hodge

Photographed by MARC HOM

Styled by SOPHIE GOODWIN



EMBROIDERED-TULLE & LAMÉ GOWN, £6,000, BY **DENNIS BASSO**. PINK-GOLD & DIAMOND RING, £10,500, BY **DIOR JOAILLERIE**

It's one hell of an inheritance. Lady Kitty Spencer comes from one of England's grandest families. Her aunt, Diana, Princess of Wales, died when Kitty was just seven years old; not long afterwards, her parents divorced, amid much public talk of infidelity and addiction.

You might expect a child, a person, to be crushed by such a history; to be fragile, brittle, even a tiny bit afraid. They might hide this vulnerability behind snobbishness, the title, the stately home, the art collection, the lineage. You would not expect Kitty Spencer, a bright beam of joy who loves Renaissance paintings, Italian food, her obese cat, her huge dysfunctional family; who laughs louder than anyone, who cries at sad songs and adverts; who is unguarded, not in a naive way, but in a life-affirmingly positive way.

'My friend just texted me to ask how many times I put my foot in it,' she says as we walk down Brook Street after our interview, builders wolf-whistling at her. 'I have absolutely no filter.'

Lady Kitty Eleanor Spencer was born in London in 1990, the eldest child of Earl Spencer and his first wife, the former model Victoria Lockwood. They had married the year before in a country church in Northamptonshire – there was a carriage and horses, outriders dressed as 17th-century highwaymen and Prince Harry as a page with a vast maroon-satin sash. Charles Spencer had proposed to Victoria, a mild-eyed beauty from Barnes, just 10 days after meeting her. Once married, they had four children: first Kitty; then,18 months later, the twins Amelia and Eliza; and finally, four years later, the heir, Louis. It was also during this time that Charles Spencer's father died, and so, aged 27, Charles inherited Althorp, a beautiful 90-room burden, duty rendered in stone and glass and marble, with 550 green acres thrown in. Meanwhile, his sister was the most famous woman in the universe, and after her divorce from the Prince of Wales in 1996, the most scrutinised – or 'hunted', as Lord Spencer would later say in his famous funeral address.

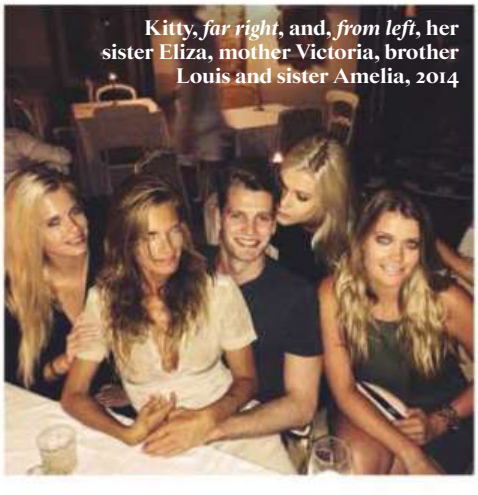
The story is that Lord Spencer and Victoria whisked their young family to South Africa to get them away from all this: the duty, the scrutiny, the prospect of four children under five in grey, oppressive England. 'I am sure that was a factor, but it was more that we went for my birthday for a holiday and we ended up sort of staying,' explains Kitty, speaking with a soft, South African accent that suits the honey-coloured skin, the tumble of shiny hair, the sparkly teeth. Yes, she's English, but she doesn't look it, or sound it. 'We just all really suited that lifestyle, and my parents wanted the opportunity for a really healthy childhood for us.'

It might have been the best decision that the Earl and then Countess ever made. In South Africa, the Spencers were just four beautiful blonde kids in a big house in Cape Town with all the animals (the family had dogs and nine cats). They went back to Althorp four times a year, including Christmas and summer holidays, and they always knew who they were, but they didn't feel the burden of their heritage; and when Diana died and their parents divorced, they weren't drawn into the public orgy of grief and judgement. They were just a family who had endured some terrible things, as many families do.

'Sadly, I have very few memories of my aunt. I was so young when she died,' says Kitty. What she does remember from her childhood is freedom, sunshine, the glorious chaos of a big family, the weekend camping trips – 'My mother is very relaxed and outdoorsy.' She also, she says, has no recollection of her mother when she was at her lowest. Victoria was treated for drug addiction and alcoholism when Kitty was very young. 'I mean, obviously I'm aware of the facts but I just don't remember. My mother has been a counsellor for 15 years and she has really educated us all about addiction and self-worth. We've never really wanted to rebel because she's always been so upfront and honest. We can tell her anything. And as a result, I've never even touched a cigarette.' Like Diana, who was bulimic, Victoria also suffered from an eating disorder, in her case anorexia – in photographs from the time, she looks desperately frail and unhappy. Victoria works with ballerinas on this issue and has educated her daughters well. Kitty has an enviably healthy attitude towards her body: she doesn't own scales and good food is one of her great pleasures in life – her summer was spent in Italy mainly posting pictures of Nutella pizza on Instagram. 'I just never really think of food as an issue.'

Kitty's parents both went on to remarry and have children, so Kitty is the eldest of a tribe of eight, and is the classic responsible oldest child: 'I do feel very motivated. I have definitely never been a slacker. I just never want to look back and feel like I have wasted my time.' She was one of the top students at her school, Reddam House, where she played the piano and did gymnastics; and she got a degree in pychology, politics and English literature at Cape Town University, followed by a master's in luxury-brand management at Regent's University in London. Yet she will not inherit Althorp, which will go to her brother Louis, Viscount Althorp, who is currently studying at Edinburgh University. 'In general, I'm totally pro gender equality. But I'm quite happy that that's [going to be] my brother's responsibility. I just think it's the correct way. I like that the house stays within the same family with the same surname. I wouldn't want it any other way for the Spencers. And I just know my brother is going to do an impeccable job.'

'My mother educated us about addiction and self-worth. We've never wanted to rebel because she's been so upfront'



Kitty, *far right*, and, *from left*, her sister Eliza, mother Victoria, brother Louis and sister Amelia, 2014

She might not want the big job, but she adores the house, and gained a new respect for the art collection at Althorp while studying Italian and history of art in Florence between her first degree and her master's, living alone for the first time, gorging on Raphael and Botticelli and pasta. 'It was the happiest few months of my life, hands down.' Her favourite painting at Althorp is the portrait of Charlotte Seymour, wife of the 5th Earl Spencer, by George Frederic Watts that hangs in her bedroom: 'It's just very beautiful and feminine and big and gorgeous.'

She lives in Fulham, in a 'contained and cosy' flat full of candles and throws ▷



TULLE GOWN, £2,355,
BY **DAVID FIELDEN**



CHIFFON GOWN, £2,595, BY **ALEXANDER McQUEEN**, AT **HARVEY NICHOLS**. ROSE-GOLD & WHITE-DIAMOND EARRINGS, £26,500, BY **DE GRISOGONO**









Left, Earl Spencer, Diana, Princess of Wales, Kitty and her grandmother Frances Shand Kydd, 1994. *Above*, Kitty's parents' wedding, 1989, where Prince Harry, *front, second from left*, was one of the page boys



Top, Kitty in the chapel at Althorp, 1994. *Above*, Kitty, *second from right*, with her brother and sisters at a farm that the family used to visit near Cape Town, 1997. *Left*, Kitty, *front left*, with her parents and sisters at Althorp, 1993

◁ and impractical white fluffy carpets. And in the kitchen is 'a big white frame which is filled with cards from my family, photographs, my brother's speech from my 21st, little notes that I keep. I guess it's a cure for homesickness.' She always knew she wanted to live in London, and although she has family in the city – including her cousins the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry – she still misses her mother, whom she calls her best friend and speaks to five times a day. She is close to her father as well, and likes to turn up at his book events (Lord Spencer is a published historian) without warning and heckle him with all the questions she knows he hates answering. Amazingly, just as her mother's struggles with addiction and body image have morphed into something healthy in Kitty, likewise Lord Spencer has not burdened his daughter with a phobia of romantic commitment.

'I'm very sentimental. I've only had a couple of boyfriends and they are still two of my best friends. I think good people are hard to find, and opening up to someone completely is a hard thing to do, so even if things don't work romantically, you should still see the benefit of having a good soul in your life who knows you.' Kitty isn't with anyone significant at the moment, and is in no hurry to get married (although when she does, it will be at Althorp: 'It would be very classical, I would make sure my wedding was spectacular'). She sees her 20s as the perfect moment to concentrate on herself and her ambitions. Her long-term plan is to launch her own luxury brand, and she is represented by Storm as a model, but currently most of her time is taken up with her work for the charity Give Us Time, which was set up by Dr Liam Fox, the Conservative MP and former secretary of state for defence, three years ago. The charity organises holidays for soldiers who are struggling to reconnect with their families following active service, and Kitty is deeply involved, visiting barracks in places like Hereford and Woolwich, talking to welfare officers to find out who needs help and persuading hotel chains and timeshare companies to offer accommodation for free, as well as putting on a gown and attending parties, making speeches and trying to raise awareness. Her first public speech was in October 2014, to a room full of senior military figures and George Osborne. 'I stood up and my knees were knocking and I thought, "I actually don't know how to do this!" So the first thing I said was, "Sorry, my knees are knocking and this is my first public speech!" And then I just kept talking, and I was fine.' CONTINUED ON PAGE 254

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALPHA PRESS, ALAN DAVIDSON



GOWN BY **DAVID FIELDEN**, AS BEFORE. WHITE-GOLD & WHITE-DIAMOND EARRINGS, £13,950, BY **STEPHEN WEBSTER**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR BY STEPHEN LOW AT ELSL MANAGEMENT FOR NEVILLE SALON, USING BUMBLE AND BUMBLE. MAKE-UP BY DORITA NISSEN, USING NARS COSMETICS. NAILS BY ZARRA CELIK AT LMC WORLDWIDE, USING DIOR CHRISTMAS LOOK DIORIFIC VERNIS & CAPTURE TOTALE NURTURING HAND REPAIR CREAM. PRODUCTION, ELLE KORHALILLER. FASHION ASSISTANT, POM OGILVY



Jackie Collins, c. 1970

Mistress of SEX

She sold over 500 million raunchy books, she shagged Marlon Brando, she was the naughty girl from Regent's Park who invented the Eighties bonkbuster. Jackie Collins was like a character of her own creating, and we loved her. In the final interview before her death, she told Annabel Rivkin what she wanted to be remembered for...

If you are a woman between 30 and 45, then it is probable that your sex education happened, not in a school biology lab, but between the red-hot pages of a Jackie Collins blockbuster. Yes, there was Shirley Conran's frankly faultless *Lace*, with what might be the best line in the history of literature – 'Which one of you bitches is my mother?' True, there were Jilly Cooper's punningly genius and warm-hearted horse-centric bonkbusters. But Jackie? Well, Jackie took the genre by the balls. Jackie, with her raunchily moralistic take on the bad guys getting it (and the good guys getting even more of it), built a one-woman empire on ball-breaking, ball-licking and just good old-fashioned balling.

Thirty-two New York Times Best Sellers. A fortune (vastly overestimated according to her) of £60 million. Mini-series. Movies. Cheesy, but hey... There was a time – younger readers should know – when Jackie Collins and her elder sister Joan bestrode the Atlantic like two gorgeously painted cultural behemoths. Jackie wrote sex. Joan acted sex. The Kardashians have nothing, I mean nothing, on these two in the glamour stakes. Elizabeth Taylor had gone all Larry Fortensky, so Joan was absolutely it. And no woman had ever consistently written such bravely, shamelessly shimmery filth until Jackie wielded her tumescently throbbing pen. Oh God, it was bliss.

And then, in September, quite out of nowhere, it seemed, she died, aged 77. She was just gone. And it was particularly strange because it was one week after she'd been in London on an aggressive promotional tour for her latest book. She died from breast cancer exactly nine days after she had been sitting opposite me on a sofa in a hotel suite, appearing neither sick nor drugged, nor in pain. Talking clearly and confidently about the future. Looking thin – very thin – but not fragile.

'How come you are so slim?' I asked. 'Slimmer than ever before?'

'Oh, I don't know,' she replied, 'I think I eat well. I eat what I want. Joan came to tea on Sunday and we had the sandwiches, we had the scones, we had the cream. I love cakes.'

This was her final face-to-face interview. And we talked about sex a lot. Not death. Fucking. 'And when to say fuck it! You learn that as you get older.' And, oh, how I respect her for the air of complete relaxation and contentment around her, even, reports would suggest, as she was meeting members of her family to finally tell them about her condition and its imminent conclusion. A condition kept secret for six and a half happy, productive Hollywood years. The last chapter in her Hollywood story.

And it's a raunchy story, the one she lived – as are the ones she wrote. Her (endless) sex scenes (wow, those characters have unquenchable libidos) may seem common or garden now, but in 1968? Deplorable. Deviant. Disgusting. And from a woman! Well, she was clearly no lady.

Having met this mellifluously generous author, I would beg to differ, but the question remains – how did Joan Collins's baby sister, a middle-class girl from Regent's Park, know her way around the literary... anatomy? 'Joan was the goodie-goodie,' clarified Jackie. 'I was the bad little girl. And she was in Hollywood by the time I was thrown out of school.' The powers that were at Francis Holland School took a dim view of her jumping out of the window to go and lurk in Leicester Square. But the nail in her educational coffin came when she pointed at the resident school flasher's part and hooted, 'Cold day, isn't it?'

Jackie and Joan's father, Joseph, a South African theatrical agent was not an evolved or encouraging type. He told Joan that she'd be washed up at 23. 'You're old enough and ugly enough' was his standard retort to any question that Jackie asked. 'I can't read that!' said Joseph when *The World Is Full of Married Men* was published in 1968. 'I can't read that language from my daughter. It's disgusting.'

It was banned in Australia. People took out full-page adverts to voice their umbrage. 'Miss Collins,' said Barbara Cartland on Terry Wogan's BBC1 chatshow in 1987, 'you are responsible for all the perverts in England.' To which Jackie purred, 'Oh, thank you.'

Feline. Softer than Joan, who possesses a real sense of danger. Spikes. Jackie was one of those good-natured naughty girls who just did her own thing. Commissioned her own Hollywood pile, which she called 'the house that *Hollywood Wives* [the book that made her name and cemented her following] built. I live my life like a man now. I finally have my freedom and I love it. I have a man for every occasion: if I want to go dancing, if I want to go to dinner, if I want to go do karaoke – but I don't want anyone moving in. I might have a one-nighter here or there, who knows? If I feel like it.'

One of her first boyfriends when she decamped from London as a teenager to stay with Joan in Hollywood was Marlon Brando, 'the most beautiful man I have ever seen. It wasn't a long thing – he had a girlfriend and I had a million boyfriends – but it was, oh, interesting.' LONGING to know what Marlon Brando was like in bed. Aren't we all? Come on Jackie... 'Well, I'll tell you,' said Jackie. YAY! 'In my autobiography, which I'm writing next year.' Please let it be written down somewhere.

Jackie's rebellion wasn't about shoplifting and drinking, it was about 'climbing out of the window and picking up guys'. Marlon was an aberration. 'I dated a lot of guys, but not a lot of movie stars. Actors on the periphery, maybe. I liked the wild ones. Guys that lifted weights. Guys who owned car lots, so I could get a cheap car.' Jackie!

Actually, she was married, to schmutter entrepreneur Wallace Austin, by the time she was 23. They had one daughter, Tracy, but he became a speed addict and they divorced in 1964. Not long afterwards, nightclub impresario Oscar Lerman spotted her picture CONTINUED ON PAGE 254





***Above*, with her then fiancé Frank Calcagnini, 1998. *Right*, on the day she married her first husband, Wallace Austin, 1960**





***Above*, with newborn daughter Rory and two-year-old Tiffany, 1969. *Left*, with Michael Caine, 1985. *Below*, with her sister, Joan, 2015**



***Left*, with her second husband, Oscar Lerman, at a CBS party, 1981**

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES, SPLASH, MIRRORPIX, RICHARD YOUNG



Brasenose College, Oxford • 9 May 2015, 8pm • Theme: A Midsummer Night's Dream *'It's traditional to have fairground attractions at Oxford balls,' says photographer Martin Parr. 'At Brasenose, David Cameron's old college, there's limited space, so they have just three or four swingboats – it's early now, but as the evening wears on, the queue starts to accumulate. In keeping with the theme, floral crowns are made for guests to embrace their midsummer fantasies. Here, Freddie Fielding and Kate Hazleton have a swing.'*



UP, UP, UP AND AWAY!

Three years of brain-crunching study for one night of boundless fun. Sounds like a good deal to us. Martin Parr and Sam Leith on the magic and madness of the Oxbridge ball

Photographed by MARTIN PARR



Brasenose College, Oxford • 9 May 2015, 9pm *'Fifty yards from the swingboats, the atmosphere in the main quad is full of anticipation. It's the same system as Disneyland here – once you're in, everything is free. Actually, it's a better deal, because you don't have to pay for drinks. Rachel McCann and Frankie Budd pose in the background.'*

Oxbridge's May Balls are one of the oldest scholarly traditions in the world. The very first was held at Peterhouse, Cambridge, to celebrate the putting down of the 1381 Peasants' Revolt. The toast was '*A bas les sans-culottes*!' And if all that may not, technically, be 100 per cent true, it might as well be.

If student life, for those not actually members of the Bullingdon Club, consists largely of eating Tesco Value products and moaning about hegemony, the May Ball at your Oxford or Cambridge college is a grand opportunity to pretend that you are living in a satire-free Evelyn Waugh novel. It can also throw things into relief. One friend of mine, a teenage bride, recalls wearing her wedding dress to the Emmanuel College ball and winning a coconut that she later lost on a punt; the following year, she was a single mother living on benefits in Preston.

There's a vague hierarchy in these things. Grander colleges tend to have grander balls – Trinity and Peterhouse in Cambridge, Christ Church and Magdalen in Oxford. The grandest come round only every four years or so, though both universities host various diffusion-line summer events for elitists-lite wanting a bit of frolic where the tickets don't cost north of £200.

Most of the money goes on hiring famous bands. People still drone on about the time the Rolling Stones played a May Ball – the modern-day equivalent perhaps being when revellers at Magdalen's 2006 shindig got Pharrell Williams (Anna Wintour's son was then an undergraduate there and Pharrell apparently owed her a favour).

The real form of entertainment at May Balls, though, is failed gatecrashing. Students of Corbynite sensibilities who reject the whole



Kellogg College, Oxford • 20 June 2015, 9pm • Theme: Around the World in 25 Years
'Kellogg is one of the graduate institutions, so they take a slightly more mature approach. Well, having said that, I should mention that the hit of the night is Twistina – the amazing balloon lady – and her creations.'

celebration of privilege and tradition that the May Balls represent, yet who very much fancy the idea of getting hosed on free champagne and trying to get off with some girls dressed in (or called) taffeta, will try to Stick It To The Man by freeloading off the back of paying guests.

Typical seldom-successful gambits include but are not limited to: swapping or forging wristbands; showing up at the entrance with a glass of fizz and walking in in the hope people will think you've been inside already; hiring a frogman's outfit and swimming underwater in full black tie before emerging nonchalantly from the Cam onto the college lawn; and living under a bench in the college grounds for the six months prior to the ball, eating Tracker bars and weeing into a milk bottle.

One veteran reports the sadistic relish his college porters took in letting people hide in trees for many hours and imagine themselves unnoticed, before hoofing them out a few minutes before the ball started. Another, more encouragingly, reports that two serial gatecrashers dressed as a pantomime horse were routinely successful and 'last seen cantering through Magdalen's side gate'.

When I was at Oxford, my college's May Ball was a source of great panic and anxiety. You knew that you'd have only one during your time there, and it had to be perfect, and so you bought a double ticket with the person you had lost your heart to in, for instance, the first term. With whom, by the time the damn thing came round, you were on non-speakers. Then you drunkenly angry-snogged someone else at the event, were hideously sick on the dodgems, burned your hand on some boiling soup and recovered consciousness, unimaginably stained, on the floor of a tent where Shed Seven (remember them?) were playing their grand finale and you were the only audience member. For example.

But remember, ye gilded youth: the eyes of the world are upon you. Another friend reports that his friend Shifty [sic] Jules copped off with a woman not then his girlfriend and 'thought he'd got away with it until the *Observer* used a pic of him snogging on the Backs to illustrate its May Ball story. On the front page.' ***Sam Leith***
Martin Parr's book on the University of Oxford is to be published by OUP in 2017.



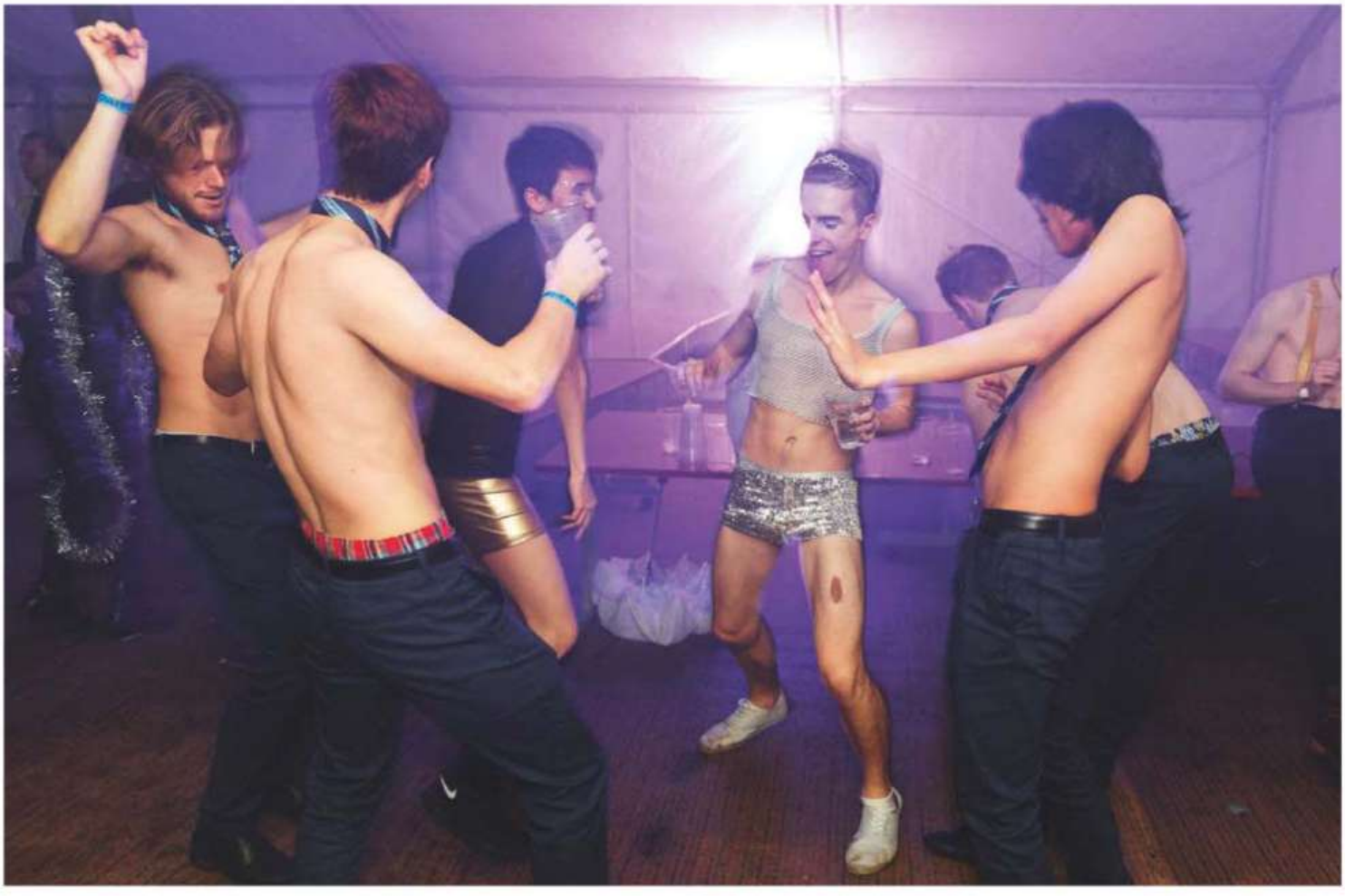


Magdalene College, Cambridge • 17 June 2015, 4.30am
'This shot was taken in the Shisha tent on the Magdalene lawns. When I arrived at the Magdalene Ball I thought, "Strange, someone here is dressed up as the Archbishop of Canterbury." When I went to up to him, I realised it was Rowan Williams, as he is the Master there.'

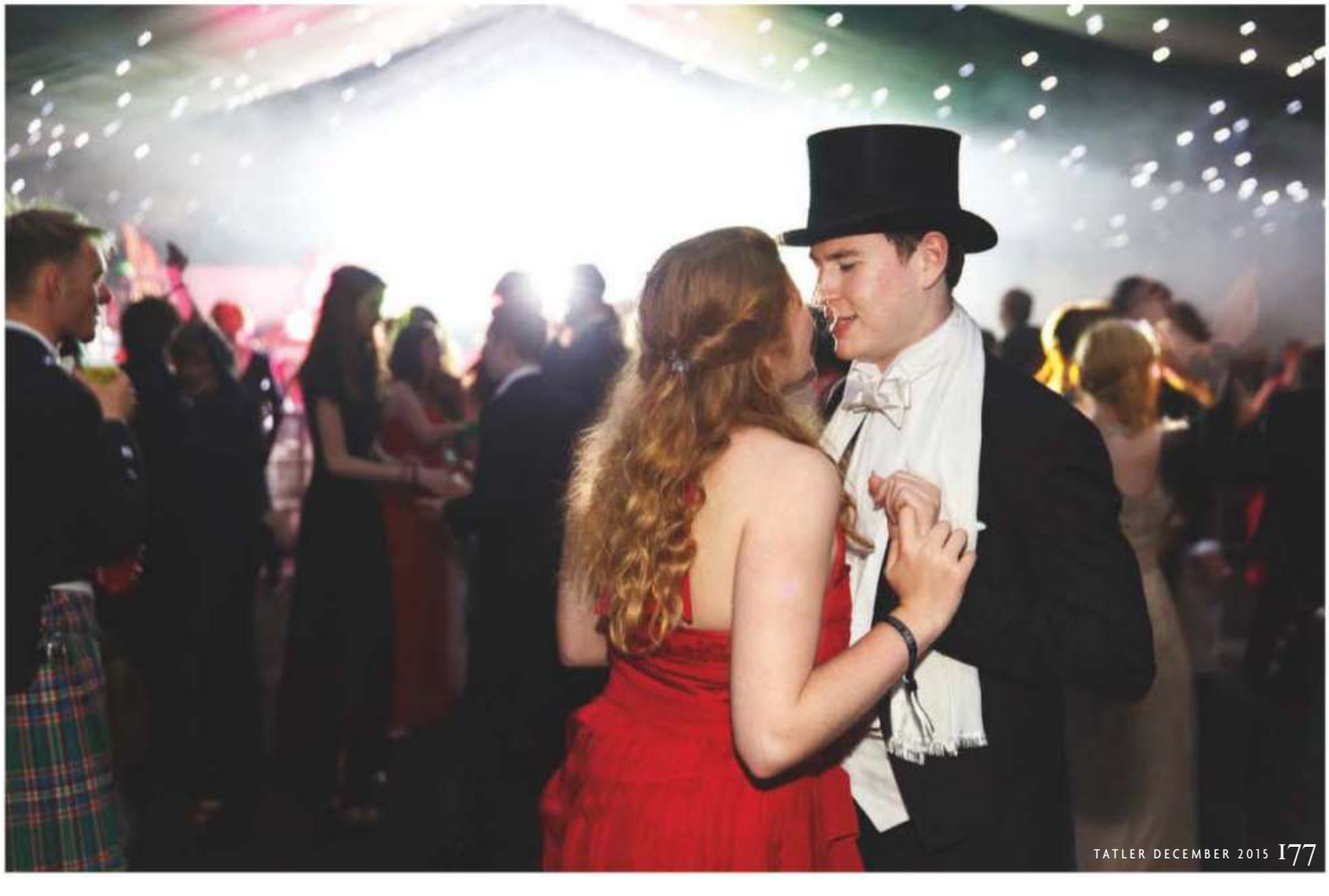


***Above*, Wadham College, Oxford • 24 November 2014, 8pm** *'In addition to its Spring Ball, held every three years, Wadham College has an annual Queerfest, an LGBT event, in November. I was struck by student Alex Wickens getting ready to perform – the college was founded by Dorothy Wadham in 1610.'*
***Below*, Magdalene College, Cambridge • 17 June, 2015, 4.30am** *'It's breakfast at the Magdalene Ball for Alice Harberd and Miranda Nixon.'*





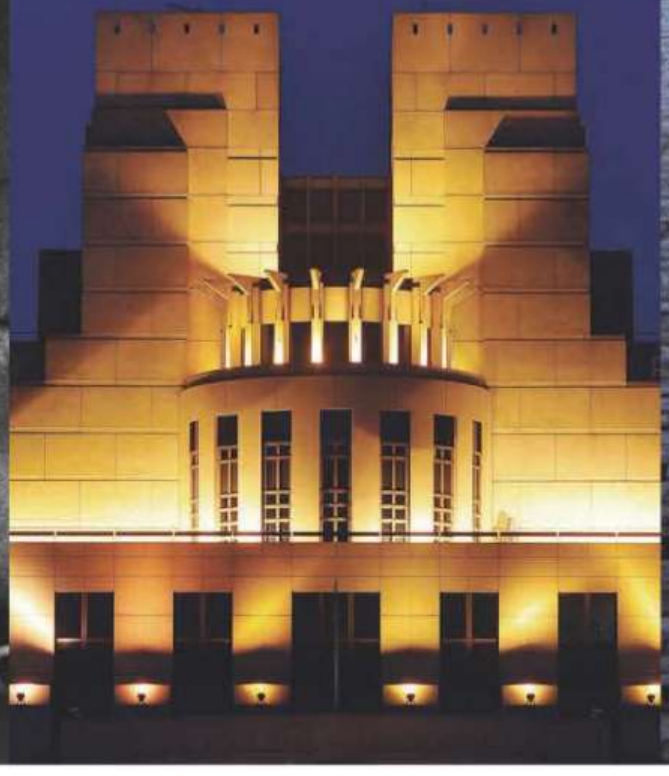
***Above*, Wadham College, Oxford • 23 November 2014, 11.30pm** *'The final blast, clothes discarded. Still civilised for members of Oxford a cappella group Out of the Blue.'*
***Below*, Magdalene College, Cambridge • 17 June 2015, 12am** *'I was so excited because of the man in the top hat. Astrid Hampe and Roland Nathaniel are halfway through the night: the Cambridge balls go on until 6am. The Oxford balls are hampered by city by-laws and have to close at 2am.'*



SPIES LIKE US?

Once it was a tap on the shoulder from your Oxbridge tutor, but these days the secret services do their recruitment using ads embedded in computer games, and their targets are maths geeks rather than smooth Old Etonians. Charlotte Edwardes on the modern sleuths







***Above*, Eton College. *Left*, the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) headquarters at Vauxhall Cross, London**



PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, PRESS ASSOCIATION, ALAMY

Letters in white paint are sprayed across a university campus pavement: 'GCHQ', they read – which means 'Government Communications Headquarters', a bastion of British intelligence. Rachel stands there for a moment, absorbing the logo and the recruitment URL at her feet. She's a science student in her final year. It's never occurred to her to become a spy. But she's intrigued: the stunt is 'quirky'. When it begins to drizzle, the words run. As rain persists, the advert quickly becomes illegible.

'Clean graffiti,' explains a GCHQ spokesman. 'It washes away.' Just like the invisible ink of the old days, then. Except that this is a very modern 'tap on the shoulder' designed to lure a new generation of spies into an increasingly complex world of espionage.

And spying has never felt more relevant. Andrew Parker, director general of MI5, says that the risk of terrorism is at its highest since the 9/11 attacks in America, and that advances in encryption technology have been so rapid that the spies in our three intelligence agencies – MI5 (the Security Service), MI6 (the Secret Intelligence Service) and GCHQ – risk being in the dark against their enemies. Social-media and tech giants have an 'ethical responsibility', Parker says, to help spies in a world where the 'shape' of the threat is constantly changing.

Espionage is having a revival in fiction too. John le Carré, author of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* and *The Constant Gardener*, is clattering towards the end of his next thriller. Frederick Forsyth, author of *The Day of the Jackal* and *The Odessa File*, has revealed that he was once an MI6 agent himself. And James Bond has stormed back onto our screens in a burst of thundering pyrotechnics, draped in women and issuing a hail of bad one-liners and smouldering eye-locks. Parker says he loves Bond because MI5 is nothing like Bond. It's full of 'ordinary people', he says, echoing former GCHQ chief Sir Iain Lobban, who called his staff 'normal' in his valedictory speech in October 2014.

But who are they? How are they recruited? What are the tricks of modern spycraft, and how are they deployed in this post-Cold War age, where the nebulous threats are as much online as on the street? How do these agencies compare to the stereotypes of fiction – is MI6 stuffed with poshos, GCHQ with geeks and MI5 with technocrats who – according to one former recruit – 'look like extras from *The Bill*'?

'Certainly the impression is that the three intelligence services recruit very different people,' says Gordon Corera, the BBC's security correspondent and author of *Intercept: The Secret History of Computers and Spies* and *MI6: Life and Death in the British Secret Service*. 'MI6 is still perceived as being quite posh. They are less Oxbridgey now, but to some extent you get these self-replicating cultures.' Officially, MI6 rejects any whiff of classism and the idea that its operation is a bit 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Toff'. 'The ideal candidate is probably not the obvious candidate,' recruiters insist. 'Contrary to some people's perceptions, there is not an MI6 type.'

Charles Cumming, spy writer and author of *A Colder War* – who was himself approached by MI6 in the late Nineties – agrees with Corera. 'Spying is a relationship business: there may be an institutional feeling that people who have been to public schools are better in a room, better at relationships, more charming... [that] they're plausible.' The Foreign Office, he adds, 'has a tradition of drooling over Old Etonians and public-school boys'.

Cumming's own recruitment was textbook. The tap on the shoulder came through a friend of his parents', who'd been for dinner and then, a few days later, 'bumped into' Cumming's mother in Waitrose. The friend inquired as to whether Cumming, Eton-educated with a first-class degree in English, would be interested in the Foreign Office. After an interview in Whitehall, Cumming waited on a bench in Hyde Park to tell his girlfriend the news. He'd met an MI6 officer, he said, who asked the immortal words: 'Have you ever thought of working for the Secret Intelligence Service?' (To which his less drama-minded girlfriend replied: 'Couldn't you have told me later? I've come out of work on my lunch break and it's raining.'

More interviews and exams followed, some 'difficult', says Cumming: 'Lots of IQ-type questions, lots of essays, lots of information that you had to read quickly and collate and write reports on. There were batteries of interviews with ex-spies and serving spies [and] psychologists. I was far too young [at 24]. Not ready for the job.'

MI6 also tests leadership skills and teamwork, and the whole process, says Cumming, 'is like *The X Factor*. They whittle you down to five or six from 30.' Today, most of those 30 would be recruited through the open-application system on the MI6 website – though Cumming believes that people still get the 'tap'. 'If you're an MI6 officer and you meet someone in public service, in the military or in a private capacity and you think he or she might make a good spy, then there's nothing to stop you recommending them.'

While MI5 and MI6 still use 'human intelligence' or infiltration, recruiters today are looking for a lot more than a suave manner and a classics degree. 'MI6 now expects its officers to understand data and technology,' says Corera. 'They don't need a maths degree necessarily, but it's not just about being a people person.'

Alex Younger, head of MI6, touched on this earlier in the year when he talked about being in a 'technological arms race'. Islamists are targeting our intelligence agencies, he said. Legal constraints mean the intelligence agencies are struggling to stay on top of the game. Spies naturally want to penetrate organisations like ISIS and to do so they need access to all areas of the web. But ever since ex-CIA whistleblower Edward Snowden exposed how much data these agencies harvested from the internet, the public wants greater encryption protection to stop anyone rifling through their personal files.

What Younger didn't say, but is true, is that other governments – such as those of Russia and China – are also hacking away, but without the same constraints. When George Osborne went on an economic mission to China in September, for example, he and his entourage were ordered to leave their smartphones at home. They were issued with 'clean' BlackBerrys that had no access to UK government computers.

Corera believes this is standard practice. 'A lot of diplomats and businessmen don't take smartphones to certain countries precisely because they know their contacts and emails will be vulnerable. There's a phrase I've heard someone in MI6 use: "going medieval" – in other words, abandoning technology. But spies need to maintain patterns of behaviour – if they "go medieval", someone still needs to keep up their usual ▷

◁ routine, if that's Facebook, Twitter and so on, to avoid raising suspicion.'

The age-old adage about 'hiding in plain sight' has never been as true as it is in the age of social media. Being invisible means being completely visible: partner, children, opinions, education, employment. 'MI6 even tested this,' says Corera. 'They wanted to find out how long it would take for an MI6 officer with no social-media profile to go undercover in a country and survive a suspicious local spy service. The answer: about a minute. They researched them on Google and realised: "Hang on – this person has no history, no cover. He's a spy." Can you imagine a 30-year-old with no media profile?' And so they invent profiles, not unlike the practice of 'dead doubles' – using dead children's identities – in the Cold War.

Although MI5 still does 24/7 surveillance on foot when necessary, tracking someone electronically, digitally or through their mobile can be more efficient and effective (one ISIS fighter made it too easy by leaving on his GEO location tag while tweeting from Syria).

'We all leave a digital exhaust,' says Corera. 'With the right tools, it's easy to follow someone. That's what MI5 and GCHQ have become very good at: looking at what kind of pattern of online activity a jihadist has. What kind of websites he browses, what kind of encryption technology he uses to communicate. That's the real frontline with intelligence work right now.'

GCHQ is responsible for safeguarding British government and business from penetration (and also for tracking criminal gangs and child molesters through the dark web: 'The plotters, the proliferators and the paedophiles,' as Sir Iain Lobban puts it). The agency – the largest of the three – is currently going through a huge restructuring, shifting focus from mass data collection to codebreaking.

THE SPYING ARISTOCRACY ARE THE CODE-BREAKERS, THE BLETCHLEY PARK-TYPE BOFFINS





ABOVE, BEN WHISHAW AS Q IN *SKYFALL*. *BELOW*, AUTHOR AND FORMER MI6 AGENT FREDERICK FORSYTH

Sinclair McKay, author of *The Secret Lives of Codebreakers* (and a forthcoming book on GCHQ), argues that in this way modern spying has come full circle. 'The spying aristocracy are the codebreakers,' he says. 'Today, it's all about computers: Alan Turing and the codebreakers at Bletchley invented computers. And a lot of what they did in the immediate post-war years is still completely classified. Obviously, the technology is totally different, but the methodology and principles are still in use. Bletchley Park-type boffins – characters like Dillwyn ["Dilly"] Knox, who famously filled his pipe with his sandwich instead of tobacco because he was so deep in thought, or Turing, who chained his coffee cup to the radiator – are prized at GCHQ today.' In this way, he adds, Bond's new Q – played by Ben Whishaw – is closest to his non-fiction counterparts, an eccentric computer geek in glasses, patterned cardies and wet anoraks: 'He's a character wholly reminiscent of Bletchley.'

Rachel, now 23, passed through the meandering selection process, the quizzes, the logic and reasoning tests, the interviews and vetting (which agents describe as 'intrusive' and involve being grilled on one's personal life, interests and habits), and is now a technical analyst in the Doughnut, as GCHQ's offices in Cheltenham are known because of the building's layout. As well as using 'clean graffiti', Rachel says, GCHQ's recruiting drive deliberately sought out 'geeks' at her university ('in the north' is the only clue she'll give). They planted coffee-cup sleeves in the campus café that said: 'The Tech Scene Just Got Hotter' – along with the website address.

GCHQ also uses radio ads on Spotify, the music-streaming service, and pop-up banners on websites. For a while, they even placed real-time ads on Xbox games such as *Splinter Cell: Double Agent* and *Rainbow Six: Vegas* (which increased activity on the GCHQ careers website by a startling 500 per cent).

Ex-GCHQ chief Sir Iain Lobban has described the organisation's staff as 'decent human beings' who shop 'in Sainsbury's', watch *EastEnders* and *Spooks* and listen 'to Radio 4 and TalkSPORT'. He and others at GCHQ highlight the fact that among the agency's 5,300 staff, the number of people with 'neuro-diversity' (ie, on the autistic spectrum, or dyslexic and dyspraxic) is higher than the national average. Rachel adds that

PHOTOGRAPHS: REX FEATURES, TOPFOTO, EYEVINE, GETTY IMAGES, NEWS SYNDICATION

they 'come from such different backgrounds – linguists, scientists, mathematicians, arts students. There doesn't seem to be just one way of getting in.'

Like all intelligence agencies, GCHQ has academic-liaison officers – agents who, in addition to their day job, set up stalls at college recruitment fairs. ('But we can't tell anyone we're coming,' says a spokeswoman. 'That would be a security risk.')

Three years ago, it was reported that GCHQ was looking to recruit directly from schools and would offer candidates a tailored 'degree in spying' under the Apprentices with Intelligence programme, instead of a university degree. Currently, GCHQ funds maths and computer-science PhDs (offering an annual stipend of up to £24,500, plus college fees of up to £6,000) at selected universities. Areas of special interest include 'randomness in cryptography', 'identifying trigger systems for malicious software behaviours' and 'algebra'.

But how can the state, which spends £1.2bn annually on all three agencies, compete with the private sector – with tech giants like Google, Apple and Facebook, each of which is worth hundreds of times that amount?

Peter Frankopan, a history don at Worcester College, Oxford, and author of *The Silk Roads: A New History of The World*, says the sort of student who, 10 years ago, might have gone into the civil service, 'now gets hoovered up by places like Goldman Sachs. Goldman is the new MI6. Why choose MI6 rather than fill your boots in the City? Facebook is the new GCHQ. As a computer programmer, you can go [somewhere like Facebook], work with the best of the best and become a millionaire at the same time.' He also argues that the idea of serving Queen and Country on a civil servant's salary cannot hold while the inequality gap widens in Britain. 'It's now about serving your family, your kids,' he says.

Of course, there's another issue: job satisfaction. Working for the intelligence agencies means never talking about your work, and often lying about what you do. As the success of these agencies is measured by what doesn't happen, it's hard to evaluate spies on the outside. The number or scale of the plots they foil is not publicised. And that's a barrier for recruitment too. 'The choice between revelling in the spoils of your work, in terms of universal praise, financial reward and tangible achievement, and saying nothing at all, is difficult,' says Frankopan.

'Spying has changed a lot,' says Corera, 'and it's only the start of how much it will change. But there's a bit that will always come down to two people in a hotel room, one trying to persuade the other to give up secrets.' □



LEFT, KIM PHILBY. *TOP*, LORD ROTHSCHILD. *RIGHT*, ANTHONY BLUNT

SMART SPOOKS

David Jenkins on the case of the posh operative

Baroness Manningham-Buller, *below,* the second woman to serve as director general of MI5, was recruited to the organisation at a drinks party, when a fellow guest suggested she see someone at the Ministry of Defence. Earlier, Benenden-educated Eliza had played Fairy Godmother in a pantomime directed by Gyles Brandreth at Oxford. The two events are not connected. So far as we know.

When it was suggested that **Kim Philby** should join MI6, Valentine Vivian, deputy head of the service, was approached for his opinion. 'I was asked about him,' said Vivian, 'and I said I knew his people.' The drunken, seductive, Westminster- and Cambridge-educated Philby was in fact a double agent and became one of the worst traitors Britain has known, sending countless agents to their deaths, feeding his Soviet masters crucial information and enabling fellow double agents to escape to Moscow – where he himself ended up, reading cricket reports in the *Times*, spreading Oxford marmalade on his toast and completely unrepentant.

Philby's best friend – and longtime supporter – in MI6 was **Nicholas Elliott**, whose father had been head master of Eton. In 1944, Elliott was interviewed by the head of security. The conversation went as follows:

Security officer 'Does your wife know what you do?'

Elliott 'Yes.'

Officer 'How did that come about?'

Elliott 'She was my secretary for two years and I think the penny must have dropped.'

Officer 'Quite so. What about your mother?'

Elliott 'She thinks I'm in something called SIS, which she believes stands for the Secret Intelligence Service.'

Officer 'Good God! How did she come to know that?'

Elliott 'A member of the War Cabinet told her at a cocktail party.'

Officer 'What about your father?'

Elliott 'He thinks I'm a spy.'

Officer 'So why should he think you're a spy?'

Elliott 'Because the Chief told him in the bar at White's.'

Victor (Lord) Rothschild was recruited to MI5 in 1939, founded its first counter-sabotage department and won the George Medal for bravery in dismantling unexploded bombs. He also talent-spotted his Cambridge friend **Anthony Blunt** for MI5, telling his wife: 'Darling, you're talking of a saint.'

Blunt was also a double agent for Moscow and went on to be director of the Courtauld, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures and a knight – a rank of which he was stripped when his treachery was eventually made public. He was never prosecuted. Brian Sewell – a close friend – wondered why Blunt did what he did: 'The answer to this is **Guy Burgess** [another Cambridge-educated double agent], with whom he perhaps never went to bed but who won from him undying loyalty – Burgess, at first handsome, charming, witty and homosexually amoral, at last a drunken yob with the halitosis of a dragon.'



A Christ Church history tutor who played hockey and tennis for England and toured Canada for the MCC at 40, **JC Masterman** ran the Double Cross System for MI5 during the war, an operation that turned every German agent in Britain into a double agent working for us. Later vice-chancellor of Oxford and provost of Worcester College, he broke Establishment ranks in 1972 by publishing the first account of the system. The then director of MI5 wrote: 'I consider your action disgraceful'; others never spoke to Masterman again.

A child of the diplomatic service, 67-year-old **Sir John Scarlett** went to Epsom College and Magdalen, Oxford, where he read history and is remembered as a youth of 'formal neatness and a bustling walk, reminiscent of the character of whom Chaucer wrote, "And yet he always seemed busier than he was."' As head of the Joint Intelligence Committee in 2003, he was, the Hutton Inquiry into the death of Dr David Kelly found, 'subconsciously influenced' by Alastair Campbell into producing the flawed dossier that helped propel the UK into war in Iraq. Then he became chief of MI6 and received a knighthood.

Sources: Desert Island Discs; A Spy Among Friends by Ben Macintyre; The Defence of the Realm by Christopher Andrew; Outsider II by Brian Sewell



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EMBROIDERED SILK-GAZAR DRESS, POA, BY **DIOR HAUTE COUTURE**. BEADED VEIL, POA, BY **PHILIP TREACY**



HAND-PAINTED ENGLISH-TRENCH-FABRIC DRESS, POA; SPAZZOLATO-LEATHER MIRROR HEELS, POA, BOTH BY **MAISON MARGIELA ARTISANAL BY JOHN GALLIANO**. STRAW MASK, POA, BY **PHILIP TREACY**



ASYMMETRIC WOOL & SILK-VELVET-EFFECT DRESS, POA; LEATHER SANDALS, POA, BOTH BY **VALENTINO HAUTE COUTURE**



SATIN DRESS WITH PATENT STRAP, POA, BY **BOUCHRA JARRAR**. HEADPIECE BY **PHILIP TREACY**, AS BEFORE



PRINTED SILK-SATIN DRESS WITH PLUNGING NECKLINE AT BACK, EMBROIDERED WITH SEQUINS & SWAROVSKI CRYSTALS, POA, BY **GIORGIO ARMANI PRIVE**



TEXTURED BROCADE DRESS; LEATHER SHOES, BOTH POA, BY **SCHIAPARELLI HAUTE COUTURE**. STRAW MASK, BY **PHILIP TREACY**, AS BEFORE



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EMBROIDERED FELT & TULLE GOWN, £19,140, BY **VALENTINO**. TWEED & PYTHON COAT, £3,305, BY **MIU MIU**. VELVET BOOTS (JUST SEEN), £690, BY **GIVENCHY BY RICCARDO TISCI**. *ON LEFT EAR*, WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND & PEARL EARRING, POA, BY **DELFINA DELETTREZ**. *ON RIGHT EAR*, GOLD EARRING, £1,300 FOR PAIR, BY **MAISON MARGIELA FINE JEWELLERY** (BOTH WORN THROUGHOUT)

TROUBLE!

Styled by
DEEP KAILEY





VELVET, RIBBON & LACE GOWN, £4,405, BY **OSCAR DE LA RENTA**. COAT, £8,837, BY **CELINE**. BOOTS, AS BEFORE



SILK DRESS, POA, BY **SALVATORE FERRAGAMO**. LEATHER COAT, £11,360, BY **CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION**. BOOTS, AS BEFORE



SILK-ORGANZA GOWN, £7,635, BY **ROSIE ASSOULIN**. WOOL COAT, £2,890, BY **FENDI**. GOLD RING, £3,500, BY **SYBARITE**



EMBROIDERED CHIFFON DRESS, £8,965; NEEDLE-PUNCHED CHIFFON COAT, POA, BOTH BY **PROENZA SCHOULER**. SUEDE HEELS, £575, BY **TABITHA SIMMONS**



LACE DRESS, £5,995, BY **ALEXANDER McQUEEN**. COAT, £20,440, BY **GUCCI**







THIS PAGE, SILK GOWN, £3,080, BY **ERDEM**. TWEED COAT, £2,450, BY **DIOR**. RING BY **SYBARITE**, AS BEFORE. EARRINGS & BOOTS, AS BEFORE

OPPOSITE PAGE, EMBROIDERED SILK GOWN, £29,700, BY **GIVENCHY BY RICCARDO TISCI**. LEATHER & SHEARLING COAT, £4,429, BY **PAUL SMITH**. BOOTS, AS BEFORE

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR BY ROKU ROPPONGI AT SAINT LUKE ARTISTS, USING BUMBLE AND BUMBLE. MAKE-UP BY JO FROST AT CLM HAIR & MAKE-UP, USING TOM FORD BEAUTY. MODEL, LERA TRIBEL AT NEXT MODEL MANAGEMENT LONDON. PRODUCTION, ELLE KORHALILLER. FASHION ASSISTANT, JESSICA RADCLIFFE-BROWN

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THE SUFFOLK CLUB

They look so calm and genteel, don't they? But Hugh and Lara Crossley have thrown some marvellously wild parties at Somerleyton, their very own chunk of Victoriana. By Sophia Money-Coutts



LORD & LADY SOMERLEYTON WITH THEIR CHILDREN JOHN & CHRISTABEL & ROXY THE DOG

FROM LEFT: JOHN WEARS FAIRISLE JUMPER, £99, BY MARIE-CHANTAL. OTHER CLOTHES, HIS OWN. CHRISTABEL WEARS DRESS, £69, BY ILOVEGORGEOUS. SHOES, HER OWN. LADY SOMERLEYTON WEARS TOP, £395, BY TALITHA, AT MATCHESFASHION.COM. SUEDE FLATS, £185, BY LK BENNETT. TROUSERS & JEWELLERY, HER OWN. LORD SOMERLEYTON'S CLOTHES, HIS OWN



CHRISTABEL WEARS LINEN DRESS, £82, BY LA COQUETA. LADY SOMERLEYTON WEARS SILK DRESS, £670, BY DVF, AT NET-A-PORTER. SHOES & JEWELLERY, HER OWN

ABOVE, SOMERLEYTON HALL FROM ACROSS THE PARK. *BELOW*, CHRISTABEL IN THE DINING ROOM

It is a sunny summer day in Suffolk, the air is wobbling with heat and in the formal gardens at Somerleyton, two small, naked children are bouncing on the trampoline and shrieking.

On the other side of the house, at the main entrance, there are also raised voices, because Lord Somerleyton and his wife are discussing what colour to paint the window frames.

'Hugh favours one palette, but I favour another,' says Lara, a brunette in a maxidress and a cricket cardigan.

'What are the options?' I ask.

'Slate or stone,' says Hugh.

'Oh, so quite similar then,' I say brightly.

'No, not AT ALL,' says Lara. She sighs. 'Come on, let's have a cup of tea.'

Barefoot, she walks through a side-entrance door, past a boot room full of fox-heads and antlers, and into the kitchen, skirting an even smaller child crawling on the stone floor. This is the Hon Margot Crossley, 18 months, the youngest of the Somerleytons' three children (John, five, and Christabel, three, are still bouncing outside). 'She's not allowed gluten. Allergic,' says Lara, 34, retrieving a biscuit from Margot's clammy fist.

Hugh, 44, was a cosmopolitan sort in his 20s. Having graduated from Oxford Brookes, he developed the itch to go travelling and set off for the Middle East and the Gulf – 'I fell in love with Yemen.' It inspired him to launch a Middle Eastern restaurant and bar chain in London called Dish Dash, a throbbing joint on Goodge Street and, later, in Balham, but it closed in 2004 when Hugh moved home to Somerleyton, his parents having downsized to a smaller house on the 5,000-acre estate.

Fortunately, while Hugh was gadding about London, he met Lara, an assistant at Sara Stewart's Fine Art Commissions gallery, at a private view by the Old Harrovian artist Thomas Leveritt. He asked her out the next day.

'What's he like?' Lara asked a friend, carrying out some due diligence on her admirer.

'He runs a chain of Lebanese nightclubs,' came the reply.

'Oh, he sounds like a total sleaze,' said Lara.

Nonetheless, despite a cack-handed attempt at proposing a few years later in St Davids Cathedral in Pembrokeshire (the excitable dean pre-empted proceedings by rushing up to the couple with a bunch of flowers), Lara said yes, the pair married and twin portraits of them by Leveritt now hang in the wood-panelled hall.







ABOVE, THE GLASS DOME IN THE HUNTING ROOM. *LEFT*, THE HALL & STAIRCASE. *BELOW*, LADY SOMERLEYTON IN THE WHITE GARDEN



The house is a clever combination of trad (oil portraits, wooden bannisters, carvings by Grinling Gibbons) and not-so-trad. The exterior – red brick and cream stone – is a Victorian shell on a 13th-century manor house not unlike Sandringham, 70 miles away in Norfolk; the man responsible for the Victorian overhaul was Sir Morton Peto, a construction tycoon who built railways across the world and who, at one time, boasted the biggest labour force in the world. But his fortune diminished as his spending habits grew and, in 1863, he was forced to flog the house to Hugh's great-great-grandfather, who had made his money in carpets.

Hugh and Lara have spent the past six years fusing old and new: there are two stuffed polar bears in the entrance hall, relics from Hugh's great-grandfather's 1897 expedition to the Arctic (the party shot 55 polar bears in total), and hanging nearby are colourful oil canvases of stick people riding horses, painted by the contemporary East Anglian artist John Kiki.

The library features the sort of anatomical books about plants that haven't been opened for several centuries, or perhaps ever, but Lara has put vast modern sofas there too, covered in a deep-blue velvet that makes you want to curl up and read all about boring old Victorian ferns. ▷

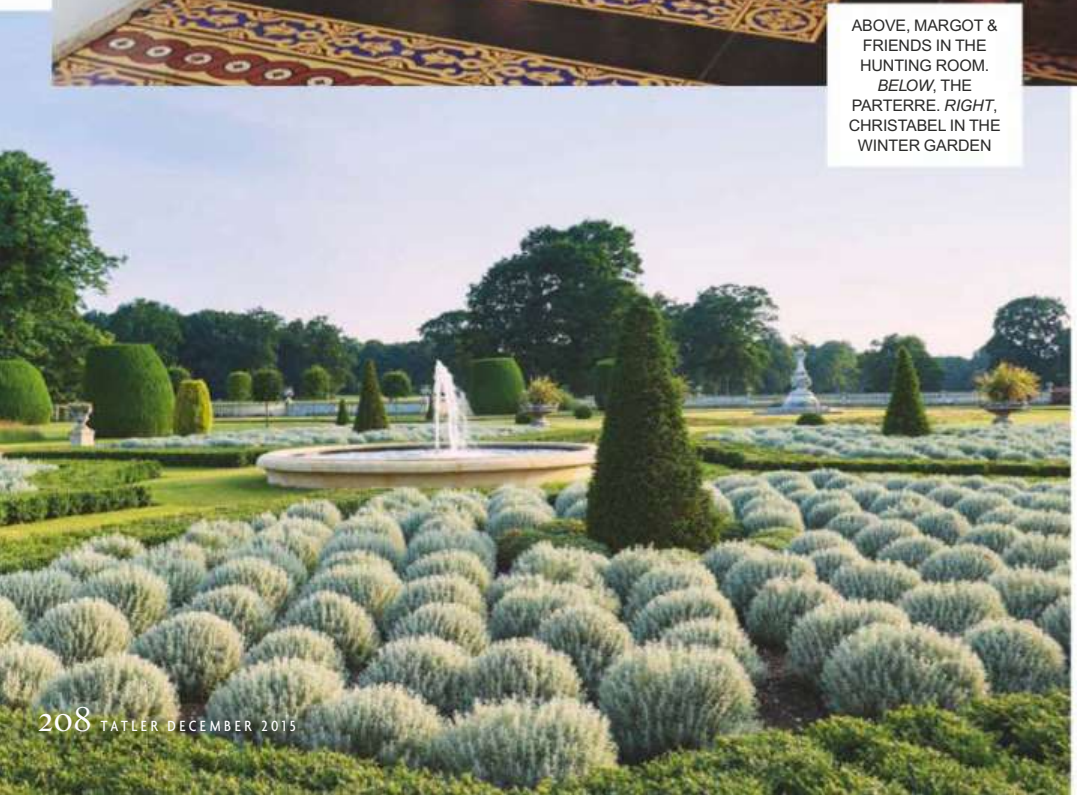


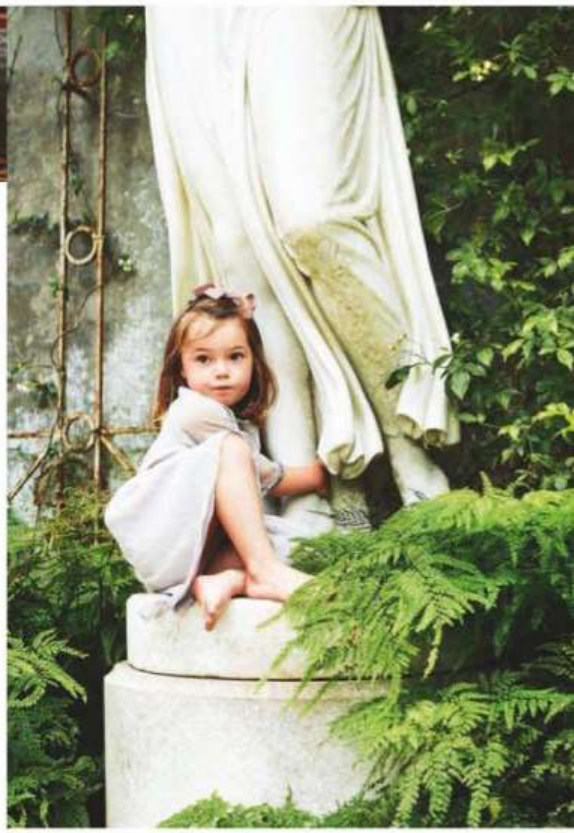
◁ This year, 14 bedrooms and bathrooms on the third, top floor were also redone. Out with lumpy mattresses that pinged in the night; in with bright flock wallpapers, new carpets and silk light shades. The place can now sleep 32, making it a terrifically grand party location. 'It's a second-division house, really,' sighs Hugh. 'It isn't a Holkham or a Blenheim.' So they're not concentrating on the bloated wedding market. Instead, they want to snare rich tourists looking to take over the house for a weekend and swan about like toffs themselves, while Hugh and Lara decamp to another house on the estate. Prices start at £15,000, which would help plug the gap in the £200,000 it costs to run the hall each year. In addition to enjoying the house, weekenders can take tea in the 12 acres of formal gardens, with towering conifers dating from the 17th century. Should you be after the full *Downton*, you can also have dinner with Hugh and Lara in the dining room. 'The Americans like that in particular. They're, like, "He's so Hugh Grant!"' says Lara.

The couple have thrown some eventful parties here themselves. There was the time when one guest went looking for more wine in the cellar but accidentally found the nozzle for the 10,000-litre heating-oil tank instead, and emerged upstairs slick with the stuff. Another time, a partygoer accidentally pressed a panic alarm, but the music was so loud that no one heard the approaching sirens. 'The next thing we knew, we had the men in blue trying to get something intelligible from anyone to discern if they were intruders or bona-fide guests,' says Hugh.

CHRISTABEL WEARS DRESS, £69, BY ILOVEGORGEOUS. JOHN WEARS COTTON SHIRT, £103, BY BONPOINT. LADY SOMERLEYTON WEARS SILK DRESS, £1,995, BY ETRO, AT MATCHESFASHION.COM. LORD SOMERLEYTON'S & JOHN'S OTHER CLOTHES, THEIR OWN. HAIR & MAKE-UP BY RACHEL JONES AT TERRI MANDUCA, USING BOBBI BROWN

ABOVE, MARGOT & FRIENDS IN THE HUNTING ROOM. *BELOW*, THE PARTERRE. *RIGHT*, CHRISTABEL IN THE WINTER GARDEN









LEFT, LADY SOMERLEYTON & THE CHILDREN EN ROUTE TO THE MAZE. *RIGHT*, LORD SOMERLEYTON & JOHN WITH HONEY & LOYD





LEFT, ORIGINAL SERVANT BELLS. *RIGHT*, THE LIBRARY, WITH JUDAS THE TERRIER ON THE SOFA



THE CRIMSON BATHROOM

The estate's other main source of income is a sort of posh CenterParcs called Fritton Lake Retreats, launched by Hugh when he took over the estate. It consists of 70 wooden lodges – some for holiday lets, some for long leases – and offers bracing, outdoorsy activities (fishing, riding, archery, golf and so on). The cabins are dotted around the estate's lake, which Hugh swims in most mornings. 'There's an old Crossley joke that goes, 'Shall we swim to Norfolk after lunch?', because the Norfolk-Suffolk border cuts straight through the lake,' says Lara.

Much of the land surrounding the house used to be paddocks, since Hugh's parents owned so many horses. These days, although Hugh gave Lara a pony as a wedding present, the paddock fencing has been taken down, so now you look out across wild parkland with vast oak trees and sheep grazing on it. 'I do sort of wake up in the morning and think, "God, how beautiful,"' says Hugh, looking out across the garden, forgetting for just a moment about the window paint. □



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Do you charge your iPhone next to your bed each night? Find yourself pressed up, alarmingly close, against strangers, every day, on your morning commute? Take yourself off on holiday (finally!) only to spend the week feeling bunged up and snotty after being blasted with air-con on the flight there? Yes, yes, and yes? Then you need body armour.

We are not talking about the clanking metal that knights of old would have marched around in – dashing and gallant though they appeared. Today's body armour is by a brand called Arjuna.ag, and it takes the form of slinky camisoles, stretchy eye masks and reassuringly sensible knickers. It's more lightweight than you'd expect, softer too – coated with silver ions (molecules that are meant to heal and fight infection, thanks to their natural ability to attack and break down bacteria). It also helps regulate your body temperature (silver allows body heat to be evenly distributed throughout the fabric, rather than letting it escape).

Rather incredibly, it is also claimed to shield the wearer against electromagnetic radiation; the ions create a sort of 'cage', so that any energy – like wi-fi signals, radio waves and X-rays – that hits it is then scattered around it, instead of being absorbed by the body. You don't have to head to your local space centre to get your hands on this lustrous, slippery stuff either. You can buy it at Matches (matchesfashion.com).

So you can snooze with your smartphone under your pillow, with the mind band, £88, pulled firmly down over your eyes; you can bash away at your keyboard, wearing the computer cuffs, £41, on your wrists. And you can zip your travel sweatshirt, £535, right up to your chin when on the plane, safe in the knowledge that germs are no match for your silver-plated force field.

You will also look rather cool. Which is half the battle. ***FW***

PHOTOGRAPH: ALEXANDRA LEROY



DO YOU NEVER WANT THE PARTY TO END?

Fortunately you are not alone – some very rich geeks are pouring their cash into working out how we can all live a lot longer. We'll drink to that, say Matthew Bell and Katie Thomas

So you have £1bn, maybe £10bn, and there is nothing you can't buy. Houses, planes, rainforests. The trouble is, you're going to die soon. Maybe not for a few decades, but on a cosmic timescale, it's not that far off. It's certainly not long enough for you to be able to enjoy all this wealth you have accumulated, through hedgefunds or tech apps, or whatever clever thing it is that you do.

So you start to think – how can I stop this annoying process of ageing? How can I live forever? Surely, if I throw enough money at it, eternity can be within reach? After all, that's how every other problem in your life gets sorted – with a hefty BACS transfer. And sure enough, this is the thought process that a few young billionaires have been through. Like Sergey Brin, the 42-year-old co-founder of Google, worth £21bn. In 2013, Google created Calico, short for the California Life Company, which focuses on 'health, wellbeing and longevity'. This year it formed a partnership with three major labs to fund research into age-related diseases, including one with Ancestry DNA to explore the genetics of the human lifespan.

It sounds wacky, but 'death defiance' has become quite an industry – in Silicon Valley, at any rate. Scientists and tech-heads are approaching death as if it were some fusty old concept from the analogue era and are now setting about 'solving' the problem of ageing. In labs all over California, people are eagerly beavering away on tests and experiments to that end. Take the Palo Alto Longevity Prize, a £650,000 award offered by hedgie Joon Yun to any genius who can 'hack the code of life' and end ageing. Thirty teams of scientists have taken up the challenge, which has two prongs: one, to extend the life of a mouse by 50 per cent; two, 'to restore the homeostatic capacity of an ageing reference mammal to that of a young adult'. In other words, to rewind the ageing process.

Then there's Peter Diamandis, the 54-year-old Greek-American technology entrepreneur behind Human Longevity Inc, a company launched last year with the aim of building the world's most comprehensive database on human genotypes and phenotypes in order to help tackle the diseases associated with ageing-related biological decline. They are mostly American, these death-defiers, but not all: Aubrey de Grey is a brilliant Cambridge graduate who has been a prominent figure in the 'biogerontology' research community since the Nineties. He is the chief scientific officer at the SENS Research Foundation,

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, EYEVINE, REX FEATURES, CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE INSTITUTE

a US-based institution that wants to transform the way the world treats age-related diseases. It currently employs 26 staff and has a multi-million dollar budget.

All very interesting, but what does this mean for the impatient billionaire right now? How long do you have to wait to achieve what Goldie Hawn and Meryl Streep did in *Death Becomes Her* and drink the elixir of eternal life? That's still a while off, but there is a clinic near Harley Street that offers a programme of 'health optimisation', which is the first step in fending off potentially life-shortening factors before they occur.

Called Viavi, it styles itself as a 'private-health client-management service'. In other words, for £12,000 per year, they will devise a programme individually tailored to keeping you healthy for as long as possible. They start by carrying out a battery of tests to ascertain precisely how well your body is functioning, and to identify any possible weaknesses or areas where you might be liable to disease. The tests include blood analysis, urine analysis and genomic profiling.

One of the most important – and advanced – tests they perform is to measure the length of your pheromones. 'That tells us exactly what your biological age is,' says Dr Sabine Donnai, Viavi's chief executive. 'Say you're 40. We then find out if your body is that of a 40-year-old, or if you are really 32, or 52.' There's a range of seven or eight tests, like DNA analysis and saliva testing for stress hormones. Pheromones are particularly important. 'Pheromone levels influence cell division and are diversely affected,' she continues. 'Some factors will be genetic, some environmental; some will be stress, or smoking – a variety of things that have been going on in your life. A lot of them you can influence.'

After a detailed consultation and analysis of the test results, Viavi's doctors map out the rest of your programme. This is when things become completely bespoke. They'll get you to come into the clinic for a full day of comprehensive investigations chosen specifically for you. These might include ultrasounds, MRI scans and tests on lung function, arterial elasticity, the spine and cognition. Next, your results are analysed and a plan is drawn up. For example, if you show early signs of heart disease, the next 12 months might focus on reducing your cholesterol and improving your cardiovascular fitness.

But how do they actually *stop* ageing? A lot of it is down to analysing genetics. 'Your genetics will not determine the speed at which you age, but they will determine your susceptibility to ageing,' says Donnai. 'So when we check all our clients, we check their DNA first, because what we want to know is where it's going wrong. If you know where a chemical reaction is going wrong, then you can start compensating for that.' (This is why some people can get away with smoking for years, while others contract lung cancer from passive smoking.) 'Certain chemical reactions take place in some people that don't seem to happen in others. If you suffer from a lot of stress, or you do a lot of air travel, that also affects you. Your DNA determines whether, if those things happen, you will accumulate toxins. Those toxins will speed up cell division, and if you speed up cell division, then you age.'

Viavi is all about prevention. By gaining control of our health, we are more likely to spot disease and illnesses early and thus optimise our fight against ageing. Donnai agrees that '25 per cent of the population dies of cardiovascular disease, yet it is 100 per cent preventable'.

After your initial consultation, Viavi can monitor you wherever you are in the world via Skype interviews. Many of their clients are Russians and Arabs for whom the £12,000 annual fee is a trifle. They do have some Londoners among their client base (which spans several hundred people), and once your first year is up, you can carry on with your health management for a reduced cost of £7,500. They currently have an 88 per cent retention rate. Viavi also offers a lifestyle optimisation scheme for people in high-stress jobs – such as chef and restaurateur Marcus Wareing, who swears by it.

The exciting news is that we are all already living longer, and the earlier you start 'optimising' your health, the better. 'We can't stop the ageing process, but we can slow it down,' says Donnai. 'Can I promise that you will live to 150? No. That seems to be the cut-off age for the body – the pituitary gland, which becomes smaller and does not work as well with increasing age, will most likely not be able to support life beyond this. But that will hopefully change over the next 100 years.' (The pituitary is a gland in the brain that controls the hormonal system.)

So, for now, eternal life still isn't on the menu, but longevity is – the chance to live to 120, 130 or even 140 and still have a life worth living. 'There are people now who will live to that age,' Donnai says confidently. 'Unless they die from an accident, my youngest children, or definitely their children, will happily live to 120 in good health if they follow a programme from youth onwards.' And by then, who knows what miracle cures they will have come up with in America. This little planet might suddenly seem rather crowded. □

The rich men who want to live forever and ever



Sergey Brin, 42
Russian-American computer scientist and co-founder of Google. Worth £21bn.



Peter Diamandis, 54
Tech-entrepreneur co-founder of the Palo Alto Longevity Prize and founder of Human Longevity Inc.



Larry Ellison, 71
Former Oracle CEO, tech billionaire and founder of the Ellison Medical Foundation. Fifth-richest man in the world, worth £30bn.



Joon Yun, 47
Physician, Silicon Valley hedgie and co-founder of the £650,000 Palo Alto Longevity Prize.



Dmitry Itskov, 33
Russian media mogul and billionaire, founder of the 2045 Initiative, the deadline by which he wants to achieve immortality.

The spods making it happen



Craig Venter, 69
American biologist and co-founder of Human Longevity Inc.



Aubrey de Grey, 52
British Cambridge graduate and founder of the SENS Research Foundation.



S Jay Olshansky, 61
University of Chicago research associate who specialises in exploring the upper limits to human longevity.



Brian Kennedy, 49
Biologist and president and CEO of California's Buck Institute for Research on Ageing.



John Troyer, 42
Deputy director of the University of Bath's Centre for Death & Society.



Nick Bostrom, 42
Swedish philosopher and director of the Future of Humanity Institute at Oxford University.

SUPER BABY!

Yes, they look cute and can do amusing things with finger food, but babies also have the capacity to save lives. Francesca White on why scientists are getting even more excited about stem cells

If you have a newborn baby, you undoubtedly think that he or she is already rather marvellous. But what you may or may not realise is that your baby has the potential to save someone's life – many lives, in fact, including yours. This potential resides in the umbilical cord, that knotty grey rope that connects a mother to her child. It's a conduit for nutrients, blood and oxygen, and it's also the home of the stem cell.

If you skipped advanced biology, here's a recap. Stem cells are cells that are not yet specialised – in other words, they have not been given a specific job. Their genetic code is unique to you, but what makes them *especially* clever is their ability to not only create perfect copies of themselves, but to morph into one of approximately 200 different specialised cell types in your body – like muscle, bone or connective tissue. Once they've assumed their required guise, they produce new cells, effectively replacing tissue that is defective, diseased or dying. It's why stem cells are also known as the building blocks of life.

You can extract stem cells from bone marrow (taken from the hip, it's an uncomfortable ordeal); adipose tissue (the fat discarded after liposuction), dental pulp (found in milk or adult teeth) and what's known as 'baby blood' (blood and tissue from the umbilical cord at the point of birth). Of course, the use of stem cells in medicine isn't *new* new. The first bone-marrow transplant was recorded in the Fifties, and stem cells are now routinely used to treat over 80 different forms of disease, including leukaemia, osteoporosis and anaemia. But their potential is staggering: scientists are currently exploring how they could help in the treatment of cardiovascular disease (the number one cause of death in the UK), liver disease, spinal-cord injury, and even re-grow limbs for amputees (though the latter is still some way off). What's more, taking advantage of them is astonishingly easy.



Or rather, it should be. Right now, there are two uses for stem cells. The first is allogenic: donating your own stem cells to help treat another human (for example, a child with leukaemia); the other is autologous: using your own stem cells to treat yourself or a blood relative. But while the chances of a direct match with a sibling are one in four, matching with a stem-cell donor is trickier – over 50 per cent of cases never succeed. The problem? The lack of a well-stocked, ethnically diverse, public stem-cell 'bank'. It's something that Precious Cells – a family stem-cell storage facility, set up in 2008 by husband-and-wife team Dr Husein and Dr Nisreen Salem – is trying to tackle.

Their first product, Precious Cells BioBank, was created to handle the private storage of your (or, more likely, your baby's) stem cells for up to 30 years – think of it as a form of life insurance. It's a straightforward process: shortly after your baby is born and the umbilical cord has been cut, it's whisked away to one of two storage facilities (sort of like a Big Yellow Self Storage, but for cord blood) where the stem cells are extracted. These are then transferred to an aluminium capsule with a unique barcode and popped in a cryogenic canister at minus 195°C, until the time comes to thaw them and put them to use. It's a clever concept, but it will cost you: a one-off payment of £2,250.



Which is where Precious Cells Miracle comes in. If you opt not to keep your baby's cord, you can donate it. In layman's terms, one umbilical cord provides one unit of cord blood – which, generally speaking, yields enough stem cells for one transplant for a child or small adult. Donating your baby's cord means that you won't have access to your offspring's own stem cells; however, if donation became commonplace, a well-stocked cord-blood bank would swiftly follow – making the process of finding an exact donor match far more likely. It's essentially a blood registry, but for stem cells: it's not a service reserved exclusively for the well off – it's for everyone.

Such banks do already exist: The NHS Cord Blood Bank was set up in 1996, and currently has 18,000 units of cord blood at its disposal. But it's not enough – other European countries, such as Germany, Switzerland and Belgium, far outstrip the UK in terms of stem cells amassed. Evidently, we need more banks. Quality control has also come under scrutiny. 'Simple, effective removal of dead or dying cells floating around in the suspension [the liquid from which stem cells are extracted], including those "marked to die", is crucial,' says Athol Haas, whose company, Pharmacells, was acquired by Precious Cells in 2014 and is responsible for developing the technology that ensures stem-cell health before storage. 'You can't have high-quality therapies that will succeed in treating patients unless you have a high quality of cell.'

That's not to say that Precious Cells doesn't support other public banks – far from it: the more samples the UK can bank, the more chance a patient has of finding a genetic match, and the more lives can be saved. It's why they've joined forces with various NHS trusts and foundations. The result is that Precious Cells Miracle is now available in four public hospitals around the UK, with two more scheduled to open imminently. (The NHS Cord Blood Bank is available in a further six.) Croydon was the first maternity ward to sign up to Precious Cells Miracle: 'When mothers on that ward were asked if they wanted to donate their baby's cord for the greater good, 65 per cent said yes,' says Haas. 'They want to think that their baby has made a difference.'

And it can: providing that the UK target – to have 30,000 cord-blood units sitting in a national bank by 2018 – is met. (In 2010, the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum set a target to build a public inventory of at least 50,000 cord-blood units – the number required for a self-sufficient bank. This was amended this year when it became clear that demand was some way off being met). Yet current NHS figures suggest that we are still some 12,000 units short of the initial target. It's another reason why Precious Cells Miracle wants to help.

In spite of this shortage, the future looks bright for cord blood, with scientists now claiming there's a one in three chance that our current generation of babies will use their own stem cells in a transplant. Still not convinced? Consider this: there are currently 1,800 people waiting for a stem-cell transplant in the UK – and despite figures stating approximately 800,000 births per year, a staggering 688,000 units of cord blood are still being thrown away by maternity wards as biological waste. 'When it comes to umbilical cords, there's no reason not to use them,' says Haas. 'If you don't harness these stem cells, they go up in smoke. It's a huge waste. And it has to change.' □

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARK COCKSEDGE. COTTON BODYSUIT, £18, BY LOGOSHIRT, AT SELFRIDGES.COM

MAX FACTOR X


NEW
VELVET VOLUME MASCARA
Transform your look with luxurious lashes.
The new Lavish Volume wand and mousse-like
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Velvet Volume Mascara, for a smouldering eye look.
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Recreate Candice's transformation: **Velvet Volume False Lash Effect Mascara**,
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'I created this luxurious Intensive Masque to protect and enhance colour treated hair. Dubbed 'the little pot of magic' by my clientele, it will deeply moisturise hair without weighing it down.' Jo Hansford MBE

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Treatments

I PUT A SPELL ON YOU...

Super natural healers

STRESS

Who **Sinéad de Hóra**

The lowdown Gifted intuitive counsellor Sinéad is an Irish girl from the Wicklow Mountains who says she has been communing with spirits (in a friendly way) since she was four years old. What's more, she has a wealth of hands-on healing under her belt (acupressure, shiatsu, deep tissue and aromatherapy) and reads your body language to determine what will work best. Maybe it's your neck that needs addressing; your shoulders that need work. She may also surprise you, if she 'picks up' on a message of hope or direction by, she says, connecting with the 'spirit world'. Wait and see.
Our verdict There's no pre-treatment consultation, which makes Sinéad's insights weirdly, er, insightful. That aside? It's a damn good massage that'll have you feeling inches taller.
Details £190 for 90 minutes. At Akasha, Café Royal, Regent Street, W1 (hotelcaferoyal.com; 020 7406 3360).



EXHAUSTION

Who **Susie Anthony**

The lowdown Susie is what's known as a 'reiki master' – which means that she claims to channel positive energy into your body, to help when you're mentally, emotionally or physically wrung-out. It sounds zany but Susie, who works from Somerset, is surprisingly normal, motherly even (despite the gobstopper jewels on her fingers and cut-glass vowels). She talks without pausing for breath: about your birth number, your traits, throwing out seemingly random sentences, like 'Are your eyes always sore?' and 'Eat prawns, they're good for the spleen.' Until you get on the bed, when she lapses into silence, whips out a pair of tuning forks that hum quietly and touches them to healing points on your feet, head and chest. Their sound waves are said to lower stress.
Our verdict You'll come to, alert yet weirdly peaceful. If Somerset is a schlepp, Susie also works from London eight days a month.
Details £150 for 120 minutes. At the Well House, Draycott, Somerset (07973 111552; psalifemastery.com).

HORMONES

PICK ME!

Who **Mihaela Mitroescu**

The lowdown Mihaela looks like she's stepped out of a Grimm's fairytale – all rippling brown hair, glowing skin and a perpetual smile. And her ethos is just as enchanting. In Mihaela's eyes, your menstrual cycle is something to be celebrated – as are the cramps, headaches and mood swings that come with it. So she sticks needles in points around the body with the speed, confidence and quiet efficiency of a surgeon – helping to settle periods, regulate hormones and soothe a harried mind. And she offers advice as she goes: instructing you to learn to love yourself, to see yourself objectively and to surround yourself with positivity.
Our verdict Mihaela is trust personified and you'll tell her everything (even the stuff you didn't know was niggling). One session and you'll fall for her philosophy – hook, line and sinker.
Details Initial consultation, £60 for 60 minutes. At 57a Wimpole Street, W1 (07789 774884).

ANTI-AGEING

Who **Laura Jones**

The lowdown Laura's technique to get you looking younger is four-pronged: body acupuncture, facial acupuncture, a bit of reiki and a thoroughly good facial. But because she's slightly magical, she might well come out with some unexpected pronouncements, like 'It's important that you ride a horse,' as you lie there with a row of tiny needles in your forehead, around your frown lines and under your chin. You might see mad colours as she does her reiki; she says she can see what you used to look like when you were younger, which is why she knows precisely where to place her pins and exactly how to lift your facial muscles. Spooky but nice, no?
Our verdict Like a shrink, Laura will sort out the bits of you that you can't see. Not only do you look younger at the end, but you feel younger too. Mind- (and face-)altering stuff.
Details £160 for 90 minutes. At the Hale Clinic, 7 Park Crescent, W1 (020 7631 0156; haleclinic.com).

EMOTIONS

Who **Holly Warren**

The lowdown You might not expect to find a healer beneath a hair salon, but you would be wrong. Not only is Holly uncannily perceptive, but she says that her kundalini treatment comes into people's lives when they need it most. So you may turn up thinking you're in line for a relaxing massage (and you are) – but if there's an issue that's rankling, Holly seems to just know. You'll spend the session face down on the bed, her hands moving from the base of your spine (where your kundalini, a 'dormant energy', is stored) along your chakras, up to your skull. Releasing this energy helps to rebalance the body.
Our verdict You may laugh, cry or simply conk out. But 90 minutes with Holly and things feel OK again.
Details £140 for 90 minutes. At Gielly Green, 42–44 George Street, W1 (020 7034 3060; giellygreen.co.uk).

PHOTOGRAPH: KOBAL COLLECTION

My close-up
Claudia Winkleman

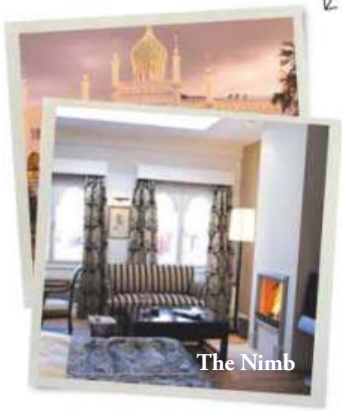
The Strictly star on sexy scents, sweets and Jon Snow (not the GoT one). By Katie Thomas



I like every black eyeliner that's out there, but I've been known to physically skip when I open a brand-new Smashbox one. And if I use anything other than MAC Myth lipstick, I feel like I'm being unfaithful.



Have you ever been to the Nimb in Copenhagen? They bring bread and cheese to your room every hour and hot chocolate is mandatory in the morning.





A man I call the Tanning Lord comes to my house and erects a tent. He's called Jules Heptonstall, he works for St Tropez and everyone should meet him.

My favourite sandwich is toasted cheese. Hot cheese is the key to life.

The greatest hairdresser on earth is Michael Charalambous – I go to his salon, Nyumba, on Sloane Square. I don't want school-run hair, I want just-had-it-outside-by-the-bins hair. And he does that best.





I'd do almost anything for Jon Snow. That brain and those socks... Boof.

The sexiest scent out there is Opium. No question.





London Zoo

+

ADMISSION
Husband and children

+



Watching *My Neighbour Totoro* in bed

=

A day off in London

Fortnum & Mason

The only place to go to at Christmas



One year I bought smoked salmon...

+



...a tea strainer and...

+



...the best boiled sweets I ever tasted.

+



My children refer to it as 'Heaven World'.

GUT FEELING

PURIST VS TOURIST



PARKHOTEL IGLS, INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

The Parkhotel is the real Mayr deal: fasting, chewing, salivating, Epsom salts. For the first few days, anyway – after that, solid, delicious food is introduced. With your stomach in recovery mode, there's time for serious mindfulness, and a new programme tackles it head-on. The cranio sessions involve fractional movements of bones, body tissues and fluids, releasing constrictions in your nervous system while also undoing emotional knots in your stomach. It's a holiday for your gut, giving it the rest it's been begging for. *Healing Holidays offers seven nights from £1,749 per person, including flights, transfers, meals and treatments (healingholidays.co.uk).*



HOTEL TANNENHOF, ST ANTON, AUSTRIA

Austria is known for its grub, but Hotel Tannenhof – a slice of Alpine charm, peering down on St Anton from its mountainside vantage – is taking a different tack. 'Alkaline' is the buzzword on their 'luxury & lifestyle' detox: numbered elixir drinks and platters of raw veg appear throughout the day, and supper brings a lighter version of Tyrolean fare – dishes stuffed with herbs, berries and morels. Treatments, too, are virtuous: hot-stone massages and detox wraps help to rid the tummy of toxins. Itching for activity? There's skiing, hikes and (indoor) yoga. *Five nights from £4,070, including transfers, meals, treatments and guided hikes (hoteltannenhof.net).*

PHOTOGRAPHS: CAPITAL PICTURES, ISTOCK. LIPSTICK IN MYTH, £15.50, BY MAC. LIMITLESS EYE LINER IN BLACK, £15, BY SMASHBOX. OPIUM EAU DE PARFUM, FROM £49.50 FOR 30ML, BY YSL. PURIST VS TOURIST BY SUZANNE DUCKETT & DANIEL SCHEFFLER

SHAPE UP

Oh to be svelte and toned, neat and trim!
Say goodbye to wibbly-wobbly bits with Dr Dray



The crème de la crème of society flock only to Dr Dray



Fat can be resilient. Sometimes, despite all your juice-swilling and gym-slogging, it continues to hang around. In all the wrong places. Sigh. What you need of course is someone to help you battle this arch nemesis. A firm friend who can restore shape, structure and contour beautifully. Enter Dr Dray! The esteemed pioneer of cosmetic excellence has clocked up 30 years' experience, dividing his time between his London and Paris clinics. Dr Dray is the master of body sculpting. His advanced methods, lightness of touch and dedication to show-stopping results make him a popular choice among A-listers. It's time you followed suit. Let Dr Dray upgrade your physique with non-surgical, fat-busting treatments Ultra-Lift and Cryolift. One harnesses the power of deep heat while the other works by freezing. In Dray's experienced hands, prepare to see your natural beauty maximised. Toned and shaped to perfection. Oh là là!

HEATING UP – ULTRA-LIFT

Looking for an alternative to invasive surgery that can help trim your waistline *and* diminish unsightly facial jowls? Well, look no further. Dr Dray is now offering Ultra-Lift – the treatment which uses ultrasound to blast fat into nothingness. Heat contracts collagen beneath the skin's surface – selectively disrupting and reducing persistent fatty tissue. On the face, this treatment reduces fat around the chin, neck and eyelids. It is as efficient as liposuction and upper eyelid surgery at streamlining the complexion. On the body, it tackles the arms, inner legs, thighs and knees – breaking down cellulite to give a total body lift. Results are not only long-lasting but *incredible*. Reveal a new you.

STAY COOL – CRYOLIFT

What's cooler than being cool? Ice-cold fat-freezing treatments, that's what. This non-invasive, pain-free treatment works in two ways – reducing fat and returning bounce to the skin. The freezing process cools and breaks down fatty tissue. Only fat cells are targeted and then eliminated naturally by the body. Simple. Infrared light is then administered, penetrating the skin to stimulate the layer of collagen underneath. This helps to maintain the skin's elasticity. Best of all, Cryolift can be customised for each patient to target all relevant areas of the body. Results are visible after just one month with even greater improvement occurring after four months. As effects are long-lasting, only one treatment is required to whip your figure into shape. Phew! Dr Dray has done it again – a multi-tasker wonder treatment. Ice, ice baby.

Clinic Dray London, 11b Albert Place, London W8 5PD. Tel: 020 7937 1031; info@drdray.co.uk; drdray.co.uk

Beauty flash
MAGIC FORMULAS

Make miracles happen. By Katie Thomas



YING YU ROLLERS

Jade Facial Roller, £28, at Cult Beauty
They say 'A cleansing stone to expel toxins.'
We say Jade increases blood flow – and the nice rolling motion helps wake up sluggish skin. All good things, in our opinion.

PRISMOLOGIE

Pink O'Clock Body Balm, £55
They say 'Colours speak to us.'
We say And pink, supposedly, encourages compassion and tenderness. Which makes this rose and rose-quartz balm even lovelier.

SJAL

Bio-Regeneratif Serum, £205
They say 'Infused with energy through precious minerals.'
We say Like amethyst, ruby and malachite, all said to stimulate cell turnover. Which means that skin will shine brighter.

COUVERTURE

No Chemicals Candle, £60
They say 'Embodies peace in its purest form.'
We say That's because, as it says on the tin, it's chemical-free. And yet it smells completely divine – like sitting in a library, in front of an open fire.

THE ORGANIC PHARMACY

Elixir of Life Tincture, £11.50
They say 'Rejuvenates the system.'
We say Dilute in water and apparently you will be less tired, have improved memory and lower stress levels. Imagine!

VOTARY

Neroli and Myrrh Facial Oil, £65
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NICOLE HOUQUES

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They say 'An aroma of amber.'
We say Which is fortunate, as it's said to cleanse the mind of negative thoughts. Fill your tub to the brim, sink back and inhale.

TATA HARPER

Love Potion, £60, at Cult Beauty
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TATLER Travel

Edited by
FRANCISCA KELLETT



We're having a BALL

And if they are, you are. How to holiday with your children and stay sane...

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES



TRESCO, THE ISLES OF SCILLY

TRESCO EXPRESS

Messing around on bikes, boats and battlements – Linda Bird has a very Scilly time

SHORT-HAUL

It's amazing what treasures you can find in your own backyard. Take the Isles of Scilly, a cluster of beautiful islands 28 miles off the coast of Cornwall. The postcards look like the tropics – white sand, turquoise sea, exotic flora thanks to its balmy microclimate. Sheer unspoiled loveliness; tranquillity you want to bottle.

Royals and glitterati love it. You can't blame them; there are no hoi polloi. Rumour has it that Dame Judi Dench is a fan, and Jude Law and Blur's Alex James are said to bring their children here for hearty *Swallows and Amazons* adventures. But no one will confirm. Too discreet.

Tresco, a hop in an eight-seater plane from Land's End, ticks just about every box on a parent's Perfect Beach Holiday checklist. Car free – everyone cycles, and the only vehicles are buggies that deliver the shopping/luggage. Virtually zero crime – the hire bikes come without locks. Educational – Stone Age settlements, post-Armada battlements and WWI hangar history. All-day watersports and boat trips to uninhabited islands – which can't fail to wear them out, meaning deep sleep plus minimal whining. Huge tick.

We arrived in glorious weather. Our chic Flying Boat cottage was gorgeous in shades of lavender and soft blues, with pretty seascapes on the wall. After settling in, eating all the complimentary cookies and collecting shells in our shoes (you're yards from the beach – it's basically your garden), we saddled up.

In sunshine, the island is mesmerising – a peacock of a place, brazenly flaunting its blonde sands and Seychelles-style sea. Our 13-year-old actually stopped cycling as we turned a corner onto a bay, staring in disbelief at the tropical palette. I mean, this is Cornwall...

Deserted coves were ours for the taking. The water's cold (only the bold swim *sans* wetsuit), but kids don't care. The hours passed quickly; it's amazing what four children can do – and catch – with two buckets and some lolly sticks. The husband snoozed. Harmony. As we headed back for supper, our six-year-old paraded the bounty of his afternoon's rock-pooling to passers-by. There's a 'what's in your bucket?' intimacy here; often you're sharing an otherwise empty beach. And there's camaraderie among cyclists – everyone exchanges cheerful Famous Five-style 'hullos' as they whizz by.

Supper was at the stylish New Inn. Here, they anticipated the appetite that sea air imparts to a growing 10-year-old boy, and catered accordingly. We refuelled on fresh battered fish and crab claws, followed by massive dollops of Troytown ice cream in chilli chocolate and rose geranium flavours (homemade on nearby St Agnes). Replete, we had just about energy enough to roll into PJs and watch the setting sun and ebbing tide.

Days passed in similar blissful fashion. An exhilarating afternoon of kayaking and paddleboarding at the island's excellent sailing centre (sailingscilly.com), which also runs learn-to-sail and windsurfing courses. (Paddleboarding, though, is 'the great leveller', my husband declared afterwards, while Googling 'Surfer's Ear'.) A trip to Abbey Garden, Tresco's 200-year-old centrepiece, was a great success. Rare plants from hot climates thrive here. The kids found hide-and-seek heaven among the 'freaky-massive trees' and 'weird giant triffids'. The collection of figureheads saved from local shipwrecks brought out everyone's ghoulish streak.



AN UPTURNED BOAT ON TRESCO BEACH. *ABOVE*, CRAB CLAWS AT THE NEW INN





LEFT, TEENAGERS CANOEING AROUND TRESCO. *FAR RIGHT*, PRINCE WILLIAM ON TRESCO, 1989

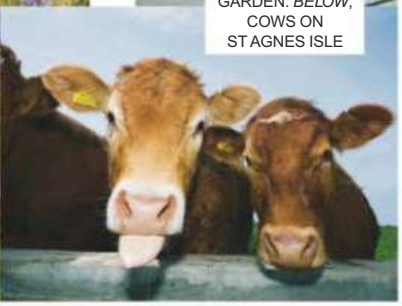


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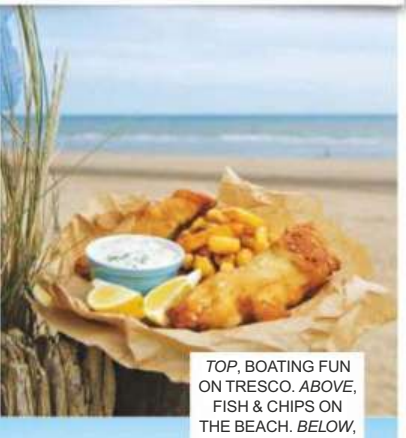
Turning the whole concept of ice cream on its head



ABOVE, ABBEY GARDEN. *BELOW*, COWS ON ST AGNES ISLE







TOP, BOATING FUN ON TRESCO. *ABOVE*, FISH & CHIPS ON THE BEACH. *BELOW*, AERIAL VIEW OF THE ISLAND



The island shop is a scream. It's been dubbed Fortnum-on-Sea but is closer to fabulous Partridges in Chelsea – that cornershop-cum-über-deli vibe. Judging by the trolleys, 'essentials' includes Moët, beef Wellington, Heinz beans and yesterday's *Daily Telegraph*.

The Dorrien-Smith family, who have leased the Scillies from the Duchy of Cornwall for generations, have achieved the unachievable here – retaining the green, traffic-free eco-credentials while smuggling in the all-mod-con luxury and technical wizardry that smart Tresco-goers expect. They're at the coalface too. (We met son Tristan – young, blond, dreamy, learning the ropes on a taxi-boat summer job, sharing the love, wowing the girls).

Holiday highlights? Ruined battlements, stories about WWI pilots and swashbuckling pirates, 30 flavours of ice cream. Dead jellyfish. That's right – when you are six, nothing beats collecting them, except perhaps a boat trip to find seals and puffins. Loads of the little guys, close as you like. An excursion not popular with everyone, particularly in wind and rain. The boat rocked violently. Some fellow passengers parted company with their breakfast. 'Focus on the ho-ri-zon,' my husband advised everyone repeatedly, in a clear voice. (He does like to be helpful.)

My rejuvenating Ila facial in the tiny but beautiful spa was bliss. Over 90 minutes of child-free wafting in the scent of Himalayan flowers. I reckon I emerged looking about 24. Fitting, then, to dine at the Ruin Beach Café, a funky waterfront restaurant with long bleached wood tables and walls encrusted with shells. Nothing Joyce Grenfell about this place; it's Tresco at its coolest. Lively twentysomethings served our children elderflower mocktails and crab linguine, and played their George Ezra requests, while my husband and I ate *à deux* at a neighbouring table.

Even the rain and fog didn't dampen spirits. *Moby Dick*-style bells rang eerily through the mist, waves roared in the sea beyond – mournful, slightly menacing. No wonder they do a great line in hot chocolate. Oh, and the rain ponchos in the island shop come in near-Jack Wills pink... teen joy.

OK, poor weather meant our flights home were cancelled. But they put everyone up gratis overnight and booked us onto the Penzance boat instead. All part of the adventure. Besides, sometimes tropical skies just don't work. At the Hell Bay Hotel on the nearby island of Bryher we ate a spectacular lunch of crab pâté and fish stew before climbing to the highest cliffpoint. Black clouds overhead, we perched in blustery drizzle, six abreast on a granite ledge, and peered down at Hell Bay, the site of countless shipwrecks, vast waves crashing on savage rocks. Front-row seats, and what a drama. All in our own backyard. Terrific.

BOOK IT *Skybus flies to St Mary's (a short boat trip from Tresco) year-round from Newquay and Land's End, and March–October from Exeter Airport, from £140 return (ios-travel.co.uk; 0845 7105555). Flying Boat cottage, from £1,600 a week (tresco.co.uk/staying-on-tresco/flying-boat-cottages).* ▷







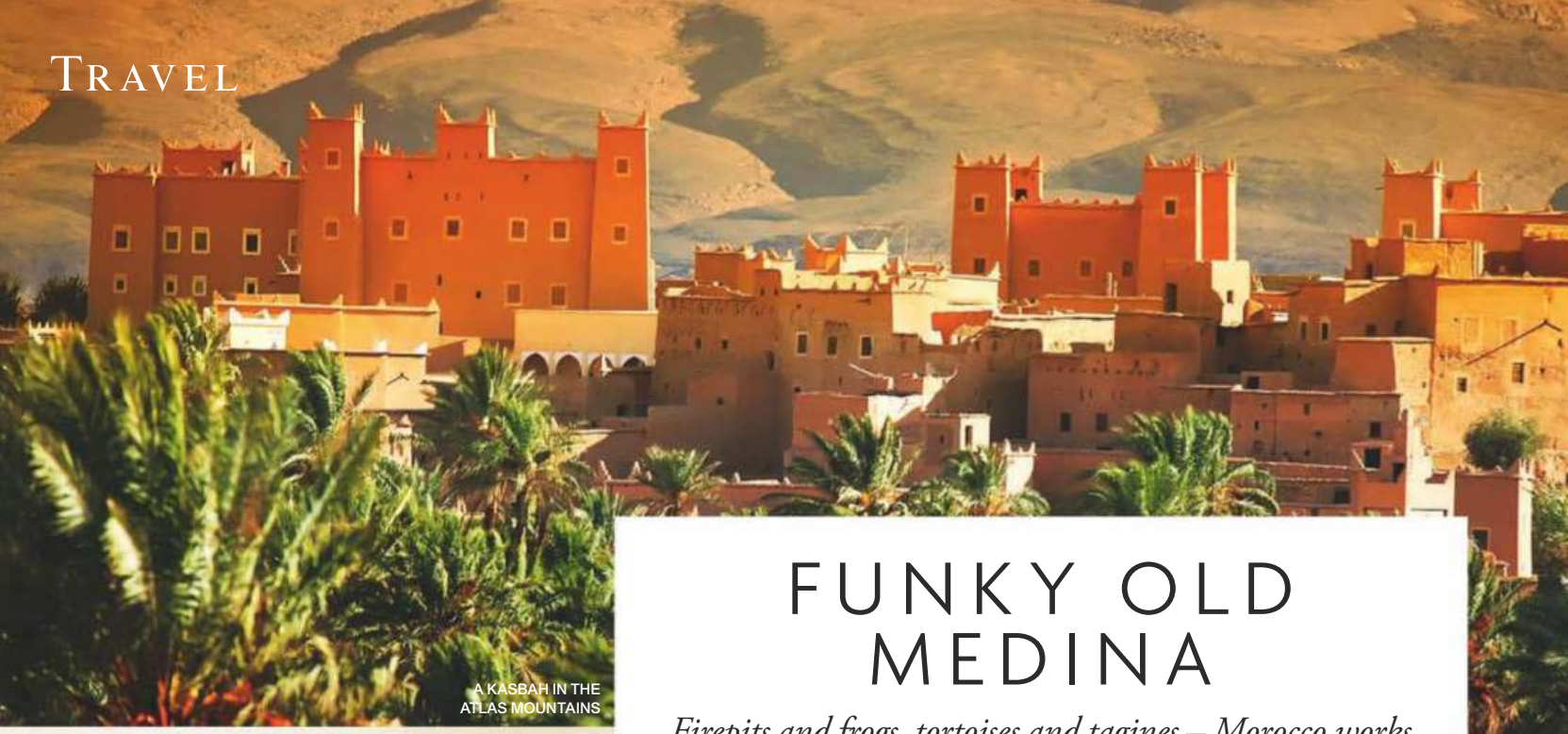
ABOVE RIGHT & TOP, TRESCO BEACH LIFE. *LEFT*, TRISTAN DORRIEN-SMITH. *BELOW LEFT*, LINDA'S SONS FELIX & KIT. *BOTTOM*, FLYING BOAT COTTAGES





What are you looking at?





A KASBAH IN THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS

FUNKY OLD MEDINA

Firepits and frogs, tortoises and tagines – Morocco works its magic on Gavanndra Hodge and her family

MID-HAUL

Childhood memories, the really vivid ones, the ones you can reach out across the years and touch, are made on holiday. Which is why going away with your children feels like such a special responsibility – you want them to experience somewhere extraordinary, you want to give them memories that they will hold on to forever.

It was already evening when we landed in Morocco, the air warm and spicy. Donkeys pulled carts alongside our cab on the short drive to Marrakesh's medina, its mud and straw walls glowing a soft pink. The cab deposited us in a narrow street – more donkeys, men with their djellaba hoods up whizzing by on motorbikes, stalls where who knows what sort of meat was being charred on an open fire – and my girls' eyes were wide in their little faces. Morocco is only three hours away from London, but for them it felt like a different universe.

Our hotel, the Riad Farnatchi, was down a deserted and slightly sinister back alley, behind an unassuming brown door, on the other side of which was a jewel-like interior of greens and blues and golds, with a pool and a fountain, intricate wooden balconies and carved marble panels, and no one seemed to mind as Hebe, six, and Minna, three, scooted about with excited whoops. We washed them in the massive gold-coloured bath and they slept through the call to prayer at 5am, but were up at seven for thick sweetened yoghurt, fresh strawberries, pancakes and hot chocolate in front of a crackling fire.

Our guide for the day was Abdel, who was born close to Riad Farnatchi, and our first stop was the hammam where he had washed as a child, at the back of which a man crouched on a pile of ashes, throwing embers onto the hammam furnace, a scene unchanged for 500 years. Nearby was the bakery, a dingy cave-like arrangement where locals bring homemade bread to be baked. Then it was on to the souk – not the touristy bit with the curly-toed slippers and the scarves, but the bit where







ABOVE, DJEMAA EL-FNA SQUARE. *BELOW LEFT*, HEBE IN THE GARDEN AT DAR ZEMORA. *RIGHT*, RIAD FARNATCHI





PHOTOGRAPHS: SHUTTERSTOCK, ELAN FLEISHER, 4CORNERS IMAGES, RIAD FARNATCHI

The one that didn't get away



And this is my party outfit!



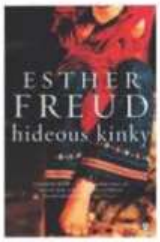
ABOVE, HEBE, ABOUT TO TAKE A CALECHE FOR A SPIN ON THE MOTORWAY. BELOW, ON 'MOUNT AWESOME'



things are actually made. Metalworkers wore sunglasses while wielding blowtorches, sparks flying, stray cats idly watching; fringes of bright wool hung from the ceilings in the dyers' quarter; there were stalls of spices, leather, wood, carts piled with oranges, chameleons in cages. The children were silent and watchful, taking it all in.

The Musée de Marrakesh was more tranquil, housed in a restored 19th-century palace, with a vast, intricately tiled courtyard. Elite Moroccan women were expected to leave their home only twice in their lives – when they married and when they died. Their entire existence was contained within these walls, the fountains and citrus trees bringing the outside world inside. My girls ran around the fountain, admired bejewelled ceremonial daggers and hid behind elaborate screens intended for girls required to have more modesty than they.

The February weather was cool but sunny, perfect for little humans, and perfect for a visit to the Majorelle gardens, all blue and yellow, with bamboo groves and plump cactuses, created by the artist Jacques Majorelle, later bought by Yves Saint Laurent, and now with a café serving chicken nuggets and frothy apple milkshakes that gave the children the energy for an early evening ramble about Marrakesh's wide central square, Djemaa El-Fna. My husband and I had both read *Hideous Kinky*, Esther Freud's fictionalisation of her childhood in Marrakesh, in which she and her sister spend much of their time in the square, and the place did not seem to have changed. There were stalls selling cooked snails, monkeys on chains, a man holding a tatty hawk with a tortoise and a hedgehog eating a lettuce at his feet, bored-looking snake charmers – it was all action and sound and smells, and it seemed extraordinary that so much new sensation could be packed into two small brains in one day.



The next morning we drove out to the Atlas Mountains, another world again. We passed through Imlil, a sort of Berber Chamonix, with shops selling crampons and woolly jerkins, and went on a short, child-friendly walk in the foothills, past cherry trees and walnut trees, a river rushing over volcanic boulders, snow on the ground, to a little Berber village where chickens wandered about and two small children wanted to touch Minna's hair because it was so blonde. We had lunch in a restaurant just as a fine snow began to fall – chips and tagines and mashed courgettes served by a man with brown stumps for teeth, eaten on low sofas that the girls jumped between. There was chocolate cake and the sweet, overstewed mint tea that Moroccans seem to live on, and we could have stayed much longer, but we were on the move again.

The girls slept as we drove two hours to the Agafay Desert, a spaghetti-western landscape with no discernible road, up and down a sandy track, until we reached our destination as the sun was setting, casting a warm, orange glow on the rippling sand. There is no electricity at La Pause, once a stopping-off point for desert traders and now a French-run retreat, and they were just lighting the firepits and lanterns as we arrived, hundreds of little tealights guiding us to our chic villa, the mud walls polished to a smooth sheen. We ate dinner under a night sky sparkling with so many stars it was more white than black.

Breakfast was pain perdu and strawberries eaten outside, surrounded by olive trees bustling with birds. We explored the adjacent riverbed, throwing rocks in pools, the only people for miles around, it seemed. We climbed a dusty mountain that Hebe named Mount Awesome, on top of which she discovered a trove of sun-bleached snail shells that she kept to show her classmates in London.

Our final destination was Dar Zemora, a hotel in the Palmeraie, just outside Marrakesh – it had a scented garden, with trees clustered brightly with grapefruits, oranges and tangerines that you could pluck and eat as you followed the resident tortoise or played croquet. Our villa had its own heated swimming pool, out of which it was hard to tempt the children, and inside were honey-coloured *tadelakt* walls, hand-painted by local artists.



ABOVE, RIAD FARNATCHI. BELOW, THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS



It was the perfect place to end the holiday, after all the exoticism of the trip, with cake served at 4pm, and the only noise at night the croaking of the huge frog that lived outside our room. On the last day we had a calèche ride around the palm groves – the driver let Hebe take the reins and she delighted in making the horses go faster and faster until he had to wrest them back under control. He even gave her the reins on the four-lane motorway we had to travel along to get back to the hotel, which is something neither she, nor I, will ever forget.

BOOK IT *Cazenove+Lloyd (cazloyd.com; 020 7384 2332) offers two nights in Riad Farnatchi, two nights at La Pause and two nights at Dar Zemora, including B&B, flights, transfers and activities with private guides, from £1200 a person, based on two adults and two children sharing.* ▷



MINNA CONTEMPLATES BUYING A CARPET IN THE SOUK IN MARRAKESH





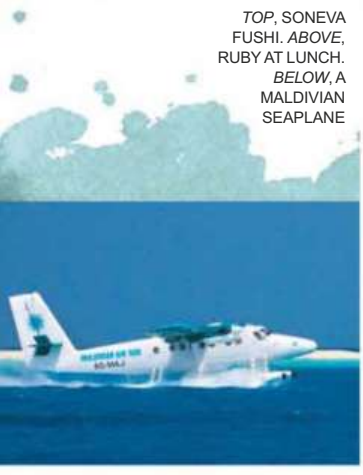




THE HONEYMOON IS OVER

And now you have the children to prove it, but that doesn't mean you can't still go to the Maldives, says Francisca Kellett





TOP, SONEVA FUSHI. *ABOVE*, RUBY AT LUNCH. *BELOW*, A MALDIVIAN SEAPLANE

So it's day two of our trip and we're on a boat. And it's glorious, of course – glowing turquoise water, warm breeze, cocktail in hand. All is good. All is very good indeed. But then it gets better, because I suddenly realise that this trip is EDUCATIONAL. This is unexpected. It's the fish that does it. A flapping grey fish on the end of a line; my six-year-old's first ever catch. She is triumphant, and as she hauls it onto deck she yells, 'Yes! White snapper! Let's have it for supper!'

I'm gobsmacked and the reason is twofold: 1) she can identify a species of tropical fish and she's happy to eat it (she's SIX). And 2) I thought nothing would impress her after our arrival on a seaplane, which I found totally thrilling ('It's a plane! But it lands on the sea! Like a boat!') and she found totally boring ('Yeah, can I have the iPad?').

But now it turns out that the Maldives is both exciting and educational. It's not indulgent and selfish and lazy, which, let's be honest, is what you were thinking. It's sort of what I'd been thinking too. We'd barely told a soul we were even going. The Maldives seemed vaguely inappropriate for a family holiday with two under-sevens – a bit like saying we were taking the kids on a gambling jolly to Vegas. It's a schlepp to get to, and when you're there it's just beaches and cocktails and honeymooners. Right?

Well, yes, sort of. But let's start with the beaches. They are not mere beaches; they are the sort of beaches that Pixar might create, so paradise-perfect you almost expect them to pixellate as you approach. Our first stop is Soneva Fushi, one of the oldest and most ravishing of Maldivian island resorts, and we have a private stretch of beach outside our vast rustic-chic villa: sand that looks like caster sugar shelving ever so gently into the clearest, bluest water I've ever seen.

It's easy to imagine a frisky couple spending their entire stay wallowing in the shallows. But we see no couples. We see no one. So we splash and we look and we splash some more. The three-year-old chases hermit crabs wibbling across the sand. The six-year-old leaps through shoals of silvery fish and pokes at bits of washed-up coral and builds extravagant sand creations. I head out with mask and snorkel to swirls of parrotfish and electric-blue surgeonfish, and my eldest wants to as well, so I teach her and it takes about two minutes and suddenly there she is, floating over the coral reef and squealing into her snorkel every time we see something exciting, which is all the time. Giant clams! Cuttlefish! NEMO FISH! ('Clownfish, Mummy!' she shouts through her snorkel.)

We're learning all sorts of stuff. We're learning that the best way of getting around is by pootling on the bicycles left outside our villa, along sandy lanes crisscrossing the island, the little one perched happily in a trolley in front of me, the eldest wobbling along beneath the palms and banyans. We learn that in the soupy heat of the tropics one must move sloowwwwllly – slowly from vast four-poster to private pool, to enormous daybed to hammock, or to lunch in the breezy outdoor restaurant, for vast platters of multicoloured fruit and barbecued fish and pizza and sushi and about 500 types of salad. And a chocolate room, which is a room filled entirely with chocolate. We learn about tree frogs (loud) and gekkos (cute) and fruit bats (huge, hairy, plentiful – there is one that flaps around the treetops in our own tropical garden. We name him Bernard).

We learn about recycling waste and water on an island during a 'backstage' tour of the resort. Sounds yawn, but is nothing of the sort;

PHOTOGRAPHS: SHUTTERSTOCK, 4CORNERS IMAGES

LONG-HAUL

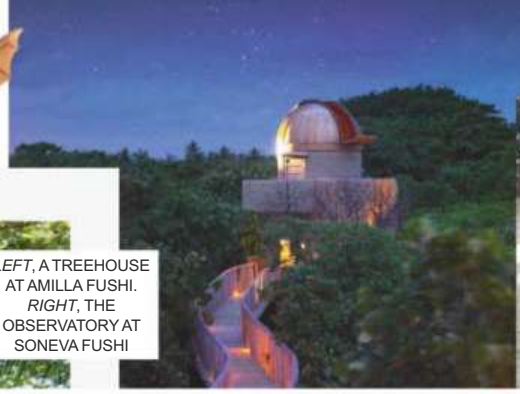




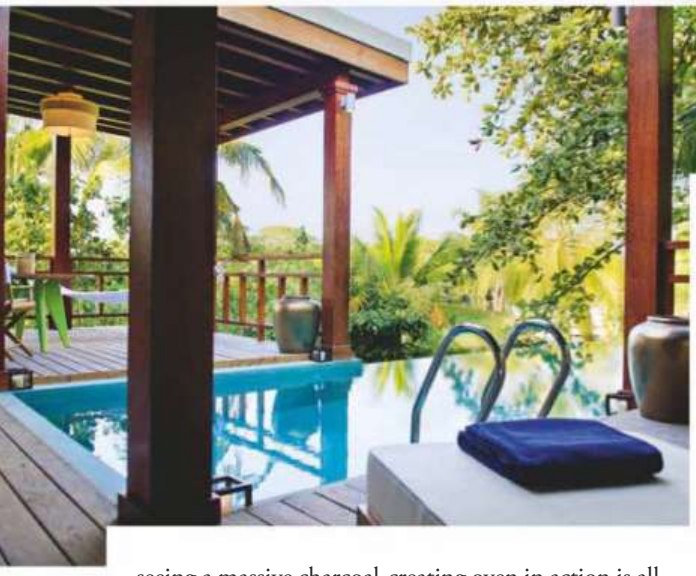
LEFT, A REEF OFF SONEVA FUSHI. *RIGHT*, FRANCISCA SITS POISED FOR THE BRINY DEEP

Bernard the friendly fruit bat









LEFT, A TREEHOUSE AT AMILLA FUSHI. *RIGHT*, THE OBSERVATORY AT SONEVA FUSHI

seeing a massive charcoal-creating oven in action is all kinds of awesome. (*Gatecrashing Paradise*, by Tom Chesshyre, by the way, is what you should read if you want to learn about the country away from the resorts, which you should.) And about growing lettuces and mushrooms in the shady kitchen garden – we scoff fiery Sri Lankan curry while the children chase chickens and poke around among the tomatoes. We even learn about the universe in Soneva's very own full-blown observatory, where the excitable Ali Shameen shows us Jupiter and its rings, and my youngest pretends to be just as pleased as the rest of us, even though it's only really the toddle over a rope bridge to the telescope that does it for her.

And then it is time to leave for our next stop, the brand new Amilla Fushi, a very different beast with stylish treehouses and weirdly space-age white cubes on stilts and a groovy stretch of Aussie-cool restaurants, and a coral reef RIGHT THERE. So, more snorkelling, and more fish, and more cool stuff to discover. Like that dolphins love it when humans clap from afar, as we find when we head out on another boat, applauding gleefully as they suddenly appear, leaping around the bow, which is sort of miraculous. And that baby reef sharks are best seen from the pier at midday, when they like to cruise around the shadows beneath our feet. And that fish 'n' chips does actually have a place in the Indian Ocean ('Not as good as MY white snapper'). Or that a ginger martini (yes, cocktails do feature here, no point denying it) is best enjoyed while the kids are in the kids' club; ditto the Body Pure massage in the glorious spa.

A word on the kids' club: it is bright and breezy and right in the thick of things, which means you don't feel like you're dumping them out of sight, plus it has these ludicrously smiley and energetic staff bouncing around, and a sweet paddling pool and endless activities (beachcombing, Maldivian-language lessons – more education!), which means the girls actually ask to go, all the time. Which is also sort of miraculous. I should be honest now and say that there are a few things I'd rather the children didn't learn. They shouldn't learn that our butler (who is called Saddam Hussein, for real) will bring us ice-cream sundaes whenever we wish. Ditto the gorgeous Reena at Soneva Fushi, our very own Woman Friday who proffers fresh coconuts with straws whenever we look a bit hot, which is often. They shouldn't know that there are such things as chocolate rooms and that pancakes with maple syrup can be eaten at breakfast every day, not just for birthdays, or that tropical fruit is anything other than a luxury – 'I like papaya more than pineapple, Mama' sounds, well, WRONG coming from a three-year-old.

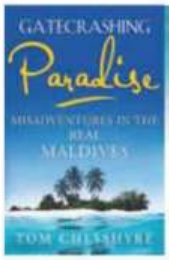
But then some things don't interest them at all. Our departure is via seaplane – I'm once again thrilled; they're once again unimpressed ('It's a boat-plane! A plane-boat!' Nothing.) As we climb up and away from that glowing turquoise water, they don't even look out at the pearl-like atolls seemingly floating in the sea. Until I shout that I can see actual shoals of fish moving in the water. The six-year-old glances down. 'Maybe mahi-mahi. Tasty. Can I have the iPad?' □

BOOK IT *Cleveland Collection (clevelandcollection.co.uk; 020 7843 3596) offers seven nights at Amilla Fushi and seven nights at Soneva Fushi, including flights and transfers, from £5,899 per person sharing.*



TOP, ROMA AT SONEVA FUSHI. *ABOVE*, AN OCEAN REEF HOUSE AT AMILLA FUSHI. *BELOW*, AMILLA FUSHI









AMILLA FUSHI: *FAR LEFT*, SADDAM HUSSEIN, THE FAMILY'S BUTLER FOR THEIR STAY. *LEFT*, ROMA & RUBY



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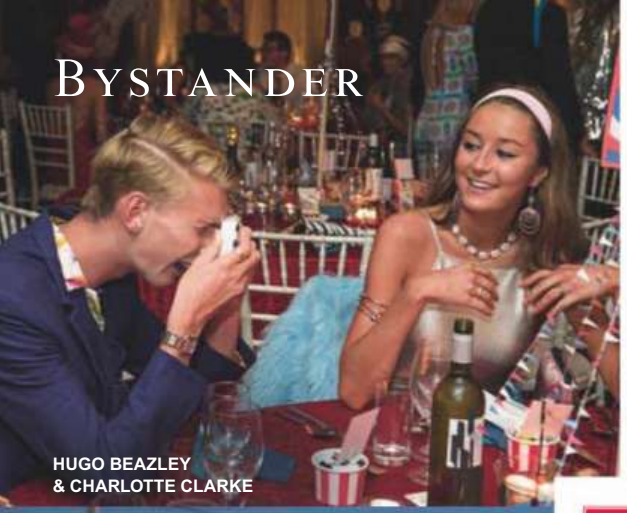


'OK, JUST A QUICK KISS. BUT TAKE YOUR MASK OFF FIRST'

LADY ELIZA MANNERS, LORD HUGO MANNERS & PIERRE WATKINS WITH KALISH AT BELVOIR CASTLE

PHOTOGRAPH: DAFYDD JONES

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BELVOIR UNCOVERED!

Wild times at the castle

Lady Eliza Manners's circus-themed 18th-birthday party was a night of surprises. Early on she found herself in an unexpected embrace with the famous beast of Belvoir – which is actually a camel. There were tears when she and her mother, the **Duchess of Rutland**, took to the stage to sing Cat Stevens' 'Father and Son'. And when the sun rose, Eliza looked out on the castle's lake and was astonished to spy a young chap bobbing around trying to retrieve some unexplained stray furniture.

Photographed by DAFYDD JONES


THE DUKE OF RUTLAND & ROBIN HART

JOE STIEGER-WHITE & LADY ALICE MANNERS



MILLIE TAYLOR


James Cotton and Freddie Tucker


PHOEBE RICHARDSON & COCO CORBISIERO


MILLIE GIBBONS & ROSE GREVILLE WILLIAMS


CARRIE & ROGER WATKINS


LADY VIOLET MANNERS


ALICE FLETCHER & LADY MARGARET PELHAM



BERTIE & ARCHIE AHERN, LAURA PEARSE & DUNCAN GROVES



DANNY & BECKY BRENNAN



EMMA REEVE, VISCOUNTESS & VISCOUNT HAWKESBURY & CELIA WEINSTOCK

LA VIE EN ROSÉ

Fizz-bang fun at Wilderness

Thousands descended on Cornbury Park for the four-day Wilderness festival. And for a few, on the Saturday evening, there was a private Laurent-Perrier Pink party in the main house. The all-pink canapés were by Corinthia London and the rosé champagne by Laurent-Perrier, but if guests like **Ophelia Hohler** and **John Malone** thought the event would provide a civilised breather from the madness outside, they were wrong. The Shirt Tail Stompers encouraged Lindy Hopping; **Vicky Butterfly** wowed **Lucas Wurfbain** and **Riccardo Lanza** with her burlesque moves; and **Laura Pearse**, in glittery gold hotpants, practically cartwheeled across the lawn.

Photographed by ALEX WILSON



MALIN SCHILD, GEORGE PELL, MATT PELL & KATIE WOODWARD



LISA DAUBENY DE MOLEYNS & JAMES DOBREE



JONATHAN PEIRCE & SOPHIE RAPTIS



Nico Wills and Mikhail Korausch



CLEMMIE & STEPHAN WINKLER



GEORGINA HONOUR & IZZY & JAYS SHORTT



MATT FOY & ALANA ROBINSON



HARRY PROSSER & DAISY MARLOW



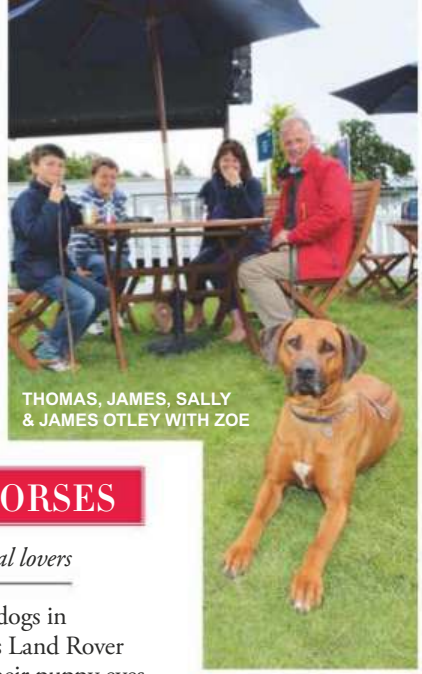
DANNY BORCHERT



LADY ROTHERWICK & OPHELIA HOHLER


RAY & JO BATEY WITH JIM & NUTMEG


DANIELLE BARNES WITH RUBY


THOMAS, JAMES, SALLY & JAMES OTLEY WITH ZOE


CHLOE HORTON WITH DOTTIE

HOUNDS & HORSES

A big day for animal lovers

There were many lovely dogs in attendance at this year's Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials, but their puppy eyes and wagging tails couldn't detract from the real stars of the event – **Michael Jung** and his mighty steed, La Biosthetique Sam, who snaffled the Land Rover Burghley title, with Michael throwing a victorious fist pump as he crossed the finishing line. Bada bing!

Photographed by DARREN GERRISH


LISA MOYES WITH FINN


Jade Pacheco and Daniel Lloyd with Beau


TRACEY CONVERTON WITH ROSIE & SOFIA CONVERTON WITH EMILIE

THE NEW DEALERS WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

Quick! Put them on speed-dial...

Nanny dealer It's a parent-eat-parent world, where old friends will merrily make a play for one another's nannies at the school gates or in the crudité aisle at Waitrose. So you decided to take the lead, imposing much-needed order, and 20 per cent, thank you very much. Not to be confused with a pimp.

Avocado dealer Gosh, how you chortle when you remember how your friends mocked you the first time you told them of your idea. But now that every other breakfast Instagram is a nod in your direction – or to that little plantation in Mexico you know about – they think you're a seriously smart smoothie.

Charades dealer If people knew you existed, there would be an outcry. You are on hand at every country-house weekend, planted by that competitive girl who cries real tears when fellow guests wrongly squawk 'Titanic' as she tries her hardest to act out *Closer*. She pays you well, and you fold your film suggestions just so. It's not cheating, it's not fixing and it definitely saves on therapy.

Festie-Leggings dealer Cosmic sunsets and unicorn tails, SpongeBob's eyes and Charlie Sheen's face... if they want it, you've got it – in Lycra.

Truffle dealer They only call you at Christmas. Sobs.

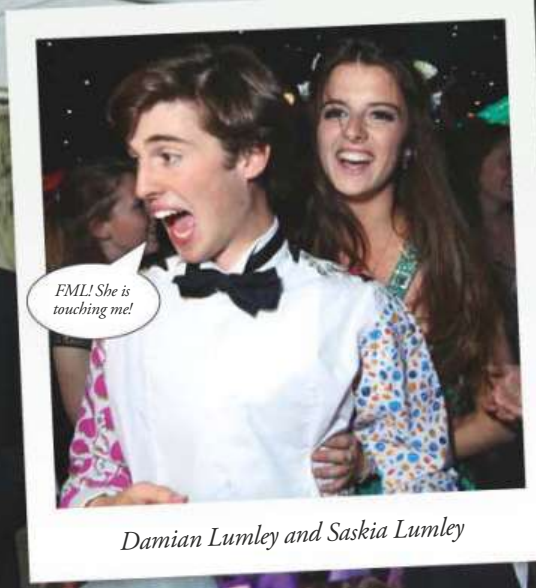
PHOTOGRAPHS: ISTOCK, SHUTTERSTOCK



JOSEPH ALLAN, PIPPA GOODFELLOW & THOMAS LAMBERT



FREDDIE DRAPKIN & HUGH MOORHEAD



Damian Lumley and Saskia Lumley



ANASTASIA BAKER & NICHOLAS WHITE

BRAINIAC MANIAC

Oxford grads have a final fling

With the Oxford University finals complete, there was good reason for **Saskia Lumley** and pals to rejoice. And it was no surprise that the gang were still rocking come 6am at her Black Tie and Midsummer Magic party in Surrey. Well, except for that one poor lad who was found snoring in the Portaloo with his boxers round his ankles...

Photographed by DARREN GERRISH

CHRISTY DAVIS

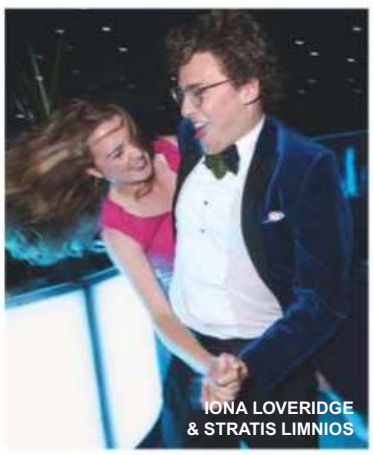
SIBYL DEVLIN

ALICK DRU & KATIE McFADDEN

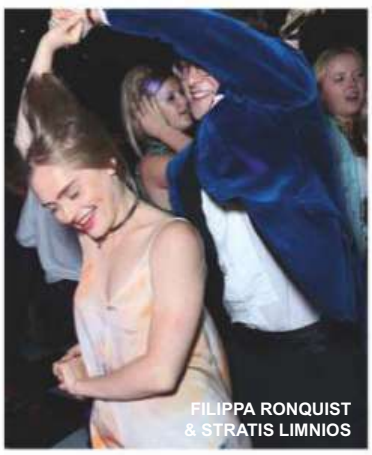


LEONORA GILMOUR & BRIDGET DRU

STRICTLY FREESTYLE...



IONA LOVERIDGE & STRATIS LIMNIOS



FILIPPA RONQUIST & STRATIS LIMNIOS



ALEXANDER MEDD



MOLLY PAYNE
AS 'BAKER STREET'



NICK BENNETT AS
'TEMPLE'*
*OF POSEIDON, THAT IS



JAKE RITBLAT
& SAM DAWSON
AS 'SHEPHERD'S BUSH'



THEO NORMAN
AS 'BLACKFRIARS'

COCK & BULL



ARCHIE HALLIDAY
AS 'COCKFOSTERS'





'ANGEL' &
'ARSENAL'

PHOTOGRAPH: SHUTTERSTOCK

Lies to tell lefties

Toffs have a different wheelie bin

It doesn't matter where they live. Every borough does it. The lid always closes and collections happen seven days a week. You'll spot them sometimes, but you'll only actually get one if you're in *Burke's Peerage*. They're royal blue.

By Hugo Rifkind, who writes for The Times



IMO BUTCHER, IZZIE NORMAN, TALLULAH FAWCETT, GRACE CONGREVE, FLORA DUNDAS & LILY HEARN AS 'SEVEN SISTERS'*
*ARITHMETIC IS NOT THEIR STRONG POINT



SOPHIE ROSSI AS 'ELEPHANT & CASTLE'



Arabella Wilson as 'High Barnet'

GOING UNDERGROUND

Tubular belles (and beaux) at the Salamander

The Isle of Wight is a long way from Zone 1, but at this year's Salamander Ball in Bembridge you could have been forgiven for thinking you were stuck on the Circle Line with a lot of excitable 13- to 17-year-olds. The party's theme was 'The Underground', so there were numerous Angels. And if there had been a prize for the most stylish outfit, it would undoubtedly have gone to **Arabella Wilson**, who came as 'High Barnet', courtesy of her impressive beehive. There was no such category, in fact, but the terribly prestigious best-dressed title, appropriately named 'Sloane Square', went to **Lachlan McLucas**, who was happily masquerading as 'Elephant & Castle'.

Photographed by MARCUS DAWES



ARABELLA WILSON & LOTTIE PINK AS 'THE TUBE'



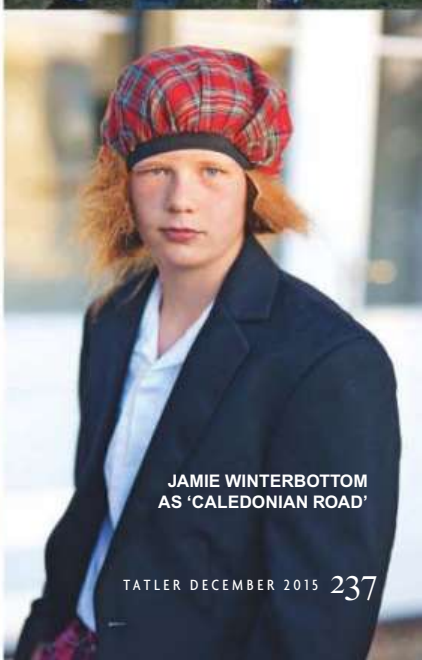
FELIX ALLOCCA & HUGH LAUGHTON-SCOTT AS 'ANGEL'



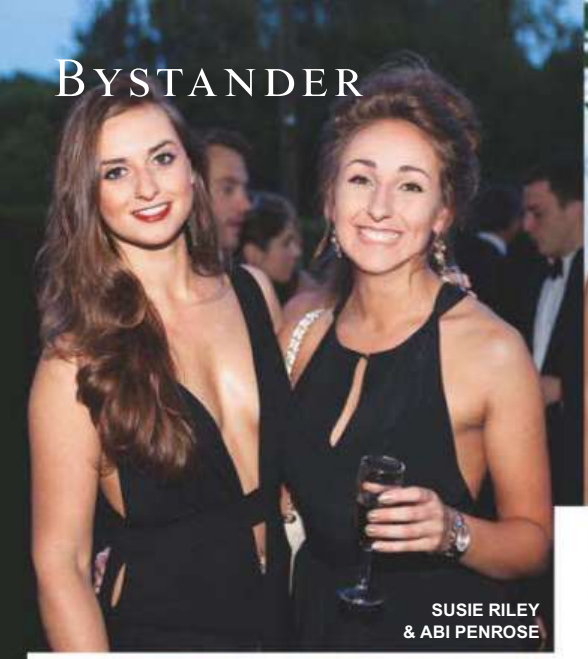
ALEXANDER ANDREAE & POPPY NAPIER AS 'WIMBLEDON'



GUS LAUGHTON-SCOTT AS 'OXFORD CIRCUS'



JAMIE WINTERBOTTOM AS 'CALEDONIAN ROAD'


SUSIE RILEY
& ABI PENROSE


IMOGEN EDDINGS,
ED PEPPIATT
& JESS SCOTT


Torkil Harrison and Nicola Wilde

A POODLE ATE MY HEN

But that didn't stop the party

Things didn't bode well for **Hugo Hunter**'s 21st-birthday party. First the flower arranger's poodle ate one of the family chickens, then the marquee arrived late and finally the superloos refused to flush. Despite all that, Hugo and his pals ended up having an absolute blast dancing the night away – until his father Peter asked the DJ to play 'Jump' by Van Halen, which cleared the dancefloor. Just like that.

Photographed by LARA ARNOTT


TOM COURT
& TIM WOODBRIDGE


REBECCA CAMPBELL-JONES,
CLAUDIA JUDD
& BIANCA DAWSON


MILLI BENNETT
& BILLY BENNETT


FREDDIE DUFF
& CAROL WALTON


ALEXANDRA BENNETT
& HUGO HUNTER


ISABELLA EGERTON
& CHARLOTTE ANDERSON

POSH SEXTING

Because Sloanes have needs too...

I've got a present for you in my red trousers...

Giddy up, giddy up. NEIGH!

5HS, then breakfast at the Wolseley, with you and me in between. Tasty 😉

Meet me in the pantry in 10 😉

Let's double gun this weekend. Bang, bang!

Hey there, truffle tits, pluck my grouse for me?

WOOF!

Talk to me like Nanny did

It's awful lonely in this castle. Wanna scale my turret?

PHOTOGRAPH: SHUTTERSTOCK



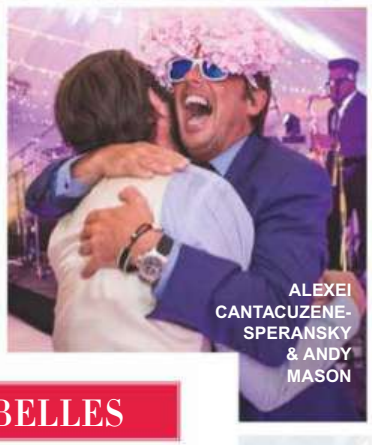
DAISY HILL & PHOENIX BRADSHAW



OLIVIA STRANGE & POPPY GARNER



AMMA AMIHYIA



ALEXEI CANTACUZENE-SPERANSKY & ANDY MASON



ASHLEY & GRACE KING CADWALLADER

B IS FOR BELLES

Down the hatch and down the aisle...

There were three 'Bs' that stood out for **Noelle Doukas** at her wedding at the Twelve Oaks estate in Surrey: a reassuring **b**randy to steady her nerves on the way to church; **B**ryan Adams's 'Heaven' for her first dance; and then, of course, **Ben King**, her new husband. Although it was his middle name that really tickled her – she found herself dissolving into fits of giggles when the vicar solemnly said 'Geoffrey' as the couple made their vows...

Photographed by LARA ARNOTT



CHARLIE WOOLDRIDGE & JOE BYRNES



BEN & NOELLE KING



SUMMER HUNTLEY & PHOENIX BRADSHAW



PHOEBE TORRANCE & SUZANNE TORRANCE



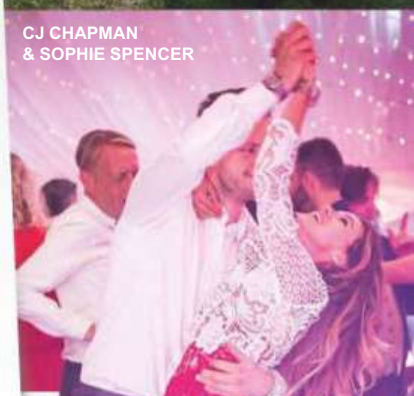
JOHNNIE & EMILY THOMPSON

SARAH DOUKAS & STEWART MEACHAM





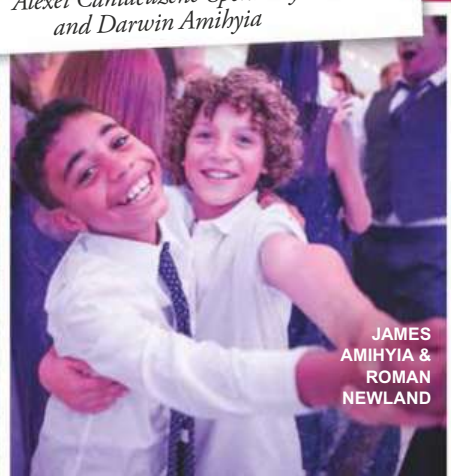
Alexei Cantacuzene-Speransky and Darwin Amihyia



CJ CHAPMAN & SOPHIE SPENCER



TOBIAS LINEKER & MICHELLE LINEKER



JAMES AMIHYIA & ROMAN NEWLAND



SLEIGH BELLS BLING... *Are You Glistening?*

BRILLIANT LONDON



Sabrina Ring £165



18ct Yellow Gold Byzantine style ring (POA)



1. Brilliant Inc. is a luxury fine jewellery boutique in London's Sloane Square, established to fulfil the dreams of diamond lovers with its exclusive collection of ethically grown, non-mined fine diamonds. Their jewellery is expertly cut using the finest materials to ensure maximum brilliance and fire that lasts forever. With prices from £85, handset in either sterling silver or 9K gold, gemologists agree the only way to tell the difference between their stones and traditional mined diamonds is the price tag! 41 Duke of York's, Sloane Square, London SW3 4LY. Call 020 7259 9555 or visit www.brilliantinc.co.uk

2. Bespoke, beautiful, handmade pieces all made within the UK. **Xanthe Marina** encourages customers to pick and choose from an array of gems, metals and elegant and edgy designs creating individual and unique jewellery that catches the eye and imagination. Call 07768 263198 for more information or visit www.xanthemarina.com

3. Keratia offers the ultimate replica diamond jewellery. All settings are in 18 carat gold. From £350. Absolutely no one can see the difference! Visit www.keratia.com or call 07974 260360. 10% off with the offer code: TATLER2015, expires 31st December 2015.







4. Rumer of London is an online boutique featuring statement fashion jewellery. Each collection has been built around the latest fashion trends and their vision is to bring affordable statement pieces to today's women. Rumer of London are giving away 15% to Tatler readers. Use promo code TATLERLOVES (Exp 06.12.15), to bring some sparkle to your Christmas and New Year's. Website: www.rumeroflondon.com or email enquiries@rumeroflondon.com



5. Artelier by Cristina Ramella is a design studio inspired by the universal aesthetic that reflects shared passion for travelling, design, architecture and art. Designed in Mexico and handcrafted in Italy these unique pieces would make wonderful Christmas presents. Available in the UK at GEREGWILLIAMS.COM where you can Shop the World's most stylish finds.





6. Roxanne Rajcoomar's affair with good bad food was the inspiration for **Goldie Rox.** Being too difficult to choose between her love of fashion and food, Rox has created a jewellery label that satisfies both needs and is guaranteed to make a statement. Check out her brand new 9ct yellow gold Tooth Pick necklace, available to pre-order on www.goldierox.com or email info@goldierox.com

7. Skultuna. Established in the year of 1607 and purveyors to H.M The King of Sweden. View the latest collections of fashion accessories and shop now at www.skultuna.com or call +4 62178 300.





8. Gatsby Jewellery is possibly the fastest growing antique jewellery destination on the internet. Run by a husband and wife team with a keen eye for unique vintage and antique jewellery. Pictured is one example from their collection of Art Deco engagement rings. Visit www.gatsbyjewellery.com or call 01992 842123.





9. Mistry Gems don't just boast a collection of beautiful handmade Gemstone jewellery; they are also committed to only selling ethical, good quality, unique, pieces – and all from a healing perspective. Nayna's lovely range has something for everyone – and any occasion – so if you are struggling to find that perfect, statement piece for a Christmas party, look no further than www.mistrygems.co.uk Email sales@mistrygems.co.uk for more information.

10. The Daphne Signature Silver by **Du Maurier Watches.** Part of a limited edition collection of just 300, this beautiful, Swiss-made timepiece with its turquoise blue strap is the ultimate gift for Christmas. Daphne Signature Silver with turquoise lizard strap £440. Also available with light pink, hot pink, red or black strap. See the full collection at www.dumaurierwatches.com or call 08455 193074.



£88



11. Watch Agency specialise in buying, selling and servicing. They sell new, ex-display and pre-owned watches by world leading brands, including Rolex, Cartier, Patek Philippe, Breitling, and more. Pictured 1. ROLEX DATEJUST 178274 – RRP £7950 New £6000. With prices starting at less than half price of retail, contact them by calling 01702 395100 or visiting www.watchagency.co.uk for more information. They also supply jewellery at discount prices.



12. Yvonne Henderson's stunning jewellery epitomises elegance and class, with each piece carefully handcrafted in the UK with meticulous attention to detail and quality. Any item from Yvonne's exquisite collection would make the perfect gift, bringing a touch of sparkle to any occasion or outfit. Showcased here are the beautiful 18ct gold plated sterling silver bangles, set with sapphires (pink, white or blue) or rubies £85. Visit www.yvonnehendersonjewellery.co.uk or email info@yvonnehendersonjewellery.co.uk for more information.



13. Personalised Dice Necklace by Merci Maman (from £49) This lovely piece will be engraved by hand with the initials of your choice in their London workshop. The team at Merci Maman will hand-craft your necklace within only a couple of days and they will gift wrap it in their signature box. Available in both sterling silver and gold plated. For more information, visit www.mercimamanboutique.com



14. Divine crescents and dreamy marquise designs, highlighted with warming gold hues and embellished with precious gemstones, all individually developed by a talented team of contemporary jewellery designers. **Kit Heath** offers beautiful, classic and contemporary sterling silver designs. Every piece of Kit Heath jewellery comes with a luxurious branded gift box and bag. RRP £22 – £250. Shop stunning collections at www.kitheath.com or call 01271 312029.



15. For the finest imitation diamonds and gemstones look no further than **Heavenly Necklaces**, whose creations are worn by royalty and celebrities all over the world. This blue topaz or pink quartz ring is set in Sterling Silver plated with 18ct gold, for just £88. Call 020 7371 8268 or visit www.heavenlynecklaces.com



16. If beautiful, bespoke jewellery is for you, then a visit to **Della Kaur** in Cambridge is a must. Their stunning jewellery is unique – both handmade in their workshop by master jewellers and sourced from designers worldwide. All of their products are sustainably sourced and created from the best materials, ensuring quality and class. Why not treat a loved one (or yourself) to jewellery so personalised and unique that it can be cherished for a lifetime? For more information visit www.dellakaur.co.uk

17. Style never goes out of fashion. **Cobra & Bellamy** make affordable , classically designed watches. Pictured is their latest addition to the range the LAMORNA, a ladies watch retro in design easy to read and a joy to behold. Available in Stainless Steel at £115 21 Carat or Rose Gold Plated at £125 with a black or brown hand stitched leather strap. The LAMORNA is the watch we have all been waiting for. To view the complete collection go to www.cobrabellamywatches.co.uk or call 01736 732112.



18. Diamond Rocks has a stunning range of engagement rings, diamond jewellery and designer jewellery with over 1,500 items in stock and big savings compared to the high street! You can design your own ring on the website by selecting from thousands of certified diamonds. Buy online at www.diamondrocks.co.uk Visit them in Hatton Garden (strictly by appointment only) or call 0800 977 4855.

19. Champagne is often at the heart of our most important celebrations and, with each cork popped, a memory is created. **Wearing Memories'** jewellery collection, designed and produced in Australia, houses the caps from those corks, creating a tangible souvenir of that special moment. Each piece is accentuated by sterling silver or 18 carat gold, with fresh water pearls and semi-precious stones. Pop a bottle this Christmas and remember your time with loved ones with Wearing Memories. Visit www.wearingmemories.com



20. Hooked, **HKD**'s Mayall Rhodium Pearl Earring is the perfect object to go to to sculpt your ears with. Like a miniature piece of architecture, the pearl levitates within its rhodium frame, and is finally trapped to fit on to the ear. For the girls who are obsessed with single earrings, this signature piece resonates sci-fi elegance. Email info@h-k-d.net stalk them on @hkd_line or visit www.h-k-d.net





21. Chrysalis. Give meaningful Chrysalis expandable charm bangles this Christmas! Stack them to create beautiful, personal collections inspired by love and friendship. Choose from 14kt gold, 14kt rose gold or rhodium flash plating. Shop now from £19 at www.lovechrysalis.com call 01823 698 898 or email info@lovechrysalis.com



22. The Fifth Watches is an exclusive, lifestyle brand that offers designer timepieces at affordable prices. The Fifth Watches are available exclusively online on the fifth day of each month, for a limited five days only or while stocks last. The Fifth Watches New York Classic range features five styles that each have an ultra thin stainless steel case and two easily interchangeable bands. The Fifth Watches offers it's VIP Members exclusive access to products and announcements every month. Visit www.thefifthwatches.com @thefifthwatches

23. Beautiful, tactile pieces handcrafted in the UK. **Emma Wylie** creates precious metal jewellery inspired by the natural beauty of our British coastlines. This Sterling Silver, Asymmetric Pendant is just £75. Call 07841 507666 or visit www.emmawylie.co.uk for more information.





24. Keturah specialises in unique handcrafted gemstone jewellery, designed and created in Devon. Each piece is individually handmade using Precious and Semi-precious gemstones, Freshwater Pearls and finished in Sterling Silver. Visit www.keturah.co.uk or contact 07908 060476 for enquiries.

25. Emelia James Jewellery specialises in bespoke necklaces with a unique edge. Handmade in London and inspired by Mediterranean influences, these pieces are ideal for everyday wear with a difference and make the perfect Christmas gift. Visit www.emeliajamesjewellery.com or call 07769 682188.



26. Balar Jewels, handmade in Jersey and inspired by their beautiful beaches, happy lazy days in the sun, sand on your toes, salt in your hair – a quality you'd find hard to match, every piece is made using 925 sterling silver and finished off with their trade mark yellow perriwinkle shell. Available online at www.balar.co.uk



JINGLE BELL FROCKS... *A Winter's Tale!*

1. noop designs' pure English alpaca scarves and hats for women, men and children – all in natural colours; white, taupe, brown and grey, in cable knit or houndstooth design – are exactly what you will need to keep you warm this winter. The yarn is hypo-allergenic and lanolin free – ideal for people who cannot wear wool next to their skin. Visit www.noopdesigns.co.uk or email help@noopdesigns.co.uk



2. Accha is the home of three beautiful collections for Living, Wearing and Giving. Its designs include exquisite reversible gold printed black quilted jackets, statement jewellery pieces such as chunky gold cuffs and necklaces, and handsome Dhurrie clutches with tassels. Beat the Christmas rush and visit Accha's Pop-Up shop at 340 Kings Road (near Bluebird) from 1-14 November or see its collections at www.acchadesigns.com For more information email info@acchadesigns.com



3. Luxurious leathers in fabulous colours makes **Fioriblu**'s latest range of Italian handbags and accessories extremely desirable. With elegant designs uncluttered by excess details and at great prices, they have something for everyone. To complete an outfit whether going to the office or out to a party visit www.Fioriblu.co.uk or email Enquiry@Fioriblu.co.uk



4. White Coco is an exciting new and unique collection of effortlessly stylish women's clothing and accessories. Bring some glamour to your wardrobe with this gorgeous dress coat in shades of aqua, taupe and cream with intricate beading. View their beautiful range at www.whitecoco.co.uk or call 07803 951029.



5. Sinclair Duncan is the new Scottish cashmere accessories brand, where quality counts, heritage holds and strong design creates distinction. These beautiful products are made in Scotland by experienced hands using traditional patterns with a contemporary twist. Every product comes in its own Sinclair Duncan gift envelope and can be shipped directly as a gift. Find your favourite at www.sinclairduncan.com or email christmas@sinclairduncan.com for more information.

6. Laurie & Jules offer a unique and eclectic collection of luxurious and stylish women's clothing. Gorgeous parkas, tailored jackets, hand embellished cashmere, fur and accessories for you and the home. The perfect one-stop boutique for elegant and timeless classics. View the exciting ranges at www.laurieandjules.co.uk or call 01327 860337. Use TATLER10 at the checkout to receive a 10% discount until 15/12/15.





7. Rewind Vintage Affairs are dedicated to make shopping for vintage and pre-loved items easy and safe. Consign or buy your Chanel, Hermes, YSL and more. They pay more; up to 70% of the sales price. They sell most items fast and offer a free DHL pickup in the UK. Rewind Vintage Affairs can guarantee the authenticity of every product with a money back guarantee. Shop online at www.rewindvintage.com or call 07590 025456 or 020 7565 0886.



To advertise contact 020 7499 9080 ext 3705

JINGLE BELL FROCKS... *Continued*









8. **Welligogs** are a distinctly British brand, renowned for their excellent quality and service. Their collection of signature pieces will set you apart from the crowd; this 'Isobel' wool jacket and 'Matador' Leather waterproof boots are key items for any winter wardrobe. Not just stunning to look at, they are also unbelievably comfortable – you'll never want to take them off! Use code TATLER12 to receive a free pair of leather trimmed wool gloves until 24/12/2015. Visit www.welligogs.com or email mail@welligogs.com

9. Stylish and unique **Carpet Bags** make gorgeous gift options. These individually hand crafted treasures are made in the heart of East Anglia using velvety soft yet tough viscose and cotton rugs. With a number of different traditional carpet designs to choose from, and a range of styles from small shoulder bags and handbags to big Gladstone bags, there is something for everyone at www.carpetbags.co.uk







10. These luxurious 100% Cashmere Ponchos from **Juice Collection** are the perfect accessory for every season! Whether for travelling, a day on the beach or a dinner party, these stunning ponchos can be worn for any occasion and will fit perfectly in your bag. Visit www.juicecollection.co.uk to see the full collection of colours or call 01531 632990 for more information.

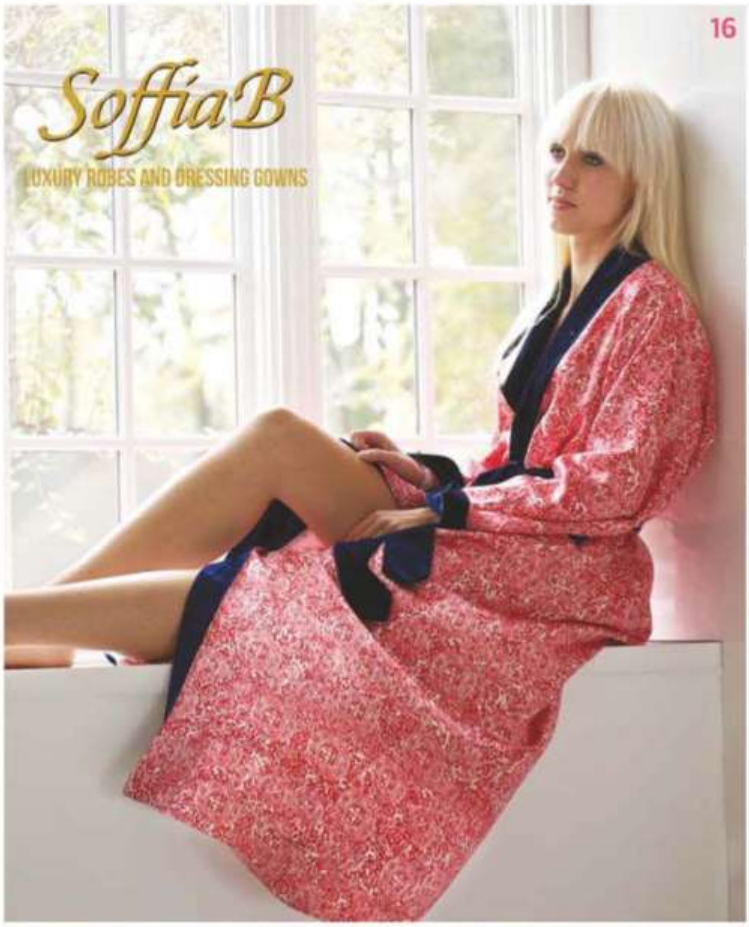


11. **Blue Velvet** the home of contemporary and luxury footwear direct from the heart of Europe. Always one step ahead, they have established themselves on their quality and first-rate service. Visit them at: 174 Kings Road, SW3 4UP or call 020 7376 7442. Buy online at www.bluevelvetshoes.com

12. **Karen Cole**'s stunning collection is sophisticated, flattering and wearable. Designed with chic lines and silhouettes, Karen's dresses are a go to for absolutely any occasion. She boasts a fabulous selection of New Zealand Merino dresses and wonderfully elegant lace dresses. Pictured is the amazing Twilight Leopard Skater dress, available online and at selected stockists throughout the UK. Call 020 7495 2665 or visit www.karencole.co.uk to explore the full range.



13. **Cashara** specialise in a range of beautiful cashmere and silk blend knitwear and accessories, including reversible capes, ponchos, jumpers and wraps. Their latest collection introduces fabulous new styles in an extensive range of wearable, easy colours. Visit www.cashara.co.uk or call 07966 033000.





14. **Mame Huku**'s exquisite collection of luxury handbags are handmade by Master Craftsmen in London, using museum quality vintage silk from Kyoto, Japan. Their range of stunning authentic Kimonos, unique Cashmere shawls, and silk velvet coats are also exceptional in craftsmanship and quality. All are available online, so feast your eyes at the glorious full collection at www.mamehuku.com 'Cho' zip clutch, shown £195.

15. **Lily Lyn** is a new leather handbag brand created by a young British designer. Lily Lyn offers high quality genuine leather handbags with every handbag featuring a floral silk blend lining. Lily Lyn features art-deco inspired designs, unique shapes, practical options and classic finishes creating timeless pieces with a twist. Visit www.lilylyn.co.uk or email contactus@lilylyn.co.uk for more information.



16. Need that special Christmas gift or want to spoil yourself this year? Look no further than **SoffiaB** luxury silk dressing gowns. They boast two limited edition collections uniquely lined with soft, sensual cotton, featuring different finishes depending on your climate. Brushed cotton for cooler climes and feather light Sea Island cotton for warmer environments, these robes – hand stitched in New York and designed by a Brit – make a beautiful accompaniment to any bedroom. To explore the eleven different colour combinations and prints, visit www.soffiab.com or email concierge@soffiab.com

17. **Hugs & Co.** Women's Penny Driving Loafers, Turquoise Suede, £89.99: Their range of women's loafers are made with a soft leather lining and hand stitched suede in a selection of beautiful colours. Go to www.hugsandco.com to shop the full range. Email info@hugsandco.com or call 020 8123 2444 for more information. They also have a full range of men's shoes available from the same address.



18. **Rawhide Co** is known for its exquisite coats and jackets in suede and lambskin shearling. Their gorgeous, shockingly soft and sensuous suede and strikingly beautiful lambskin shearling coats, jackets and gilets are beautifully crafted here in the UK from the finest natural materials. A perfect combination of English garment making heritage, bewitching colours and acute, confident design. They will become your key wardrobe pieces – so heavenly you'll never want to take them off. Visit www.rawhideco.com or call or email Kate on 07704 521225 or kate@rawhideco.com

19. **Thomas Lavone** is a Newark, New Jersey based designer known for custom couture gowns and fine apparel. The brand evokes a timeless feminine aesthetic that is both polished and sophisticated. An unparalleled craftsman beguiles the standard with perfect lines and exceptional fit. Visit www.thomaslavone.com

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS... *Tatler's Perfect Presents!*

1. SWIG Hip Flasks reinvent the hip flask with modern style, ergonomic design and fashion sense. Their seamless, stainless steel flasks and interchangeable leather/tweed pouches are made for bespoke gifting, with in-house engraving, next day delivery and superb customer experience. Visit www.swigflasks.com or call 020 3239 5864 for information and orders.



2. A unique and innovative underwear brand, **Smuggling Duds** is the brand of choice amongst world class DJ's and athletes! Each pair comes with an invaluable stash pocket – perfect for stashing your valuables, from money to credit cards to your phone; Smuggling Duds are ready for anything! Get 15% off with discount code TATLER15, exp 31.12.2015. To find out more go to www.SmugglingDuds.com or email info@smugglingduds.com





3. T London. We love the distinctive aromas of T London's new tea-inspired Darjeeling candle. Blended by master perfumers, the zesty notes of Darjeeling will help to lift your mood throughout winter, with fragrant essential oils of lemongrass, orange, spicy nutmeg and rich black tea: 100% pure vegetable wax. Discover more including bath & body at www.t-london.com spend £45 + for a free 100ml room fragrance RRP £19.95 (enter TATLER at checkout). Exp 30.11.15.



4. The new Blue Haze belt from **Estribos** Argentina, The Real Argentine Leather Folks. The pastel blue Carpincho hide makes this belt, available worldwide only from Estribos, completely unique. Check out the Blue Haze and its cousins the red Vivo and the black Carbon, at www.estribos.co





5. Broadland's Pottery 12 days of Christmas Handcrafted Garland. This festive ceramic garland tells the story of the 12 days of Christmas and will add stylish flare to every home. Exclusively hand painted and available in Red, Gold and Green £30. Call 07901 948904 or visit www.broadlandspottery.co.uk

6. Jessamy Elmhirst is a bespoke woodturner. She produces unique hand-turned wooden bowls and platters, bringing together a love of the countryside and fresh contemporary ideas for the elegant urban home. Individual pieces can be personalised with your own tartan, colours or an engraved silver plaque for a really special gift. Visit www.jessamyelmhirst.com for more ideas and information.



7. As worn by Dylan Hartley, Max Evans and other international sports stars! **Zaini** hats bring you the worlds best range of beanie hats. All beanies are handmade and designed in Scotland using Super Soft Acrylic Yarn for that cashmere feel. The PERFECT Boys Christmas present for only £20.99. Visit www.zaini.com or call 08442 724379.





8. A unique gift for anyone who might enjoy the real absinthe experience. The tasting set includes a 5cl bottle of each of **La Fée**'s all natural 'Absinthe Supérieure' and a Sheffield stainless steel Absinthe spoon. These are the only absinthes endorsed by the French Absinthe Museum. Available from: Selfridges, Harvey Nichols and Fortnum & Mason. Or online at www.uk.buyabsinthe.com (£14.50 inc UK Delivery).



9. Arts & Scents is a new and exciting German company creating unique perfumes. Unusual combinations of rare natural materials and fragrance oils result in astonishing effects in every scent composition that they offer. Arts & Scents produce their perfumes in the traditional European perfumers method, which enables them to create truly outstanding scent bases. The use of special plant material, melted with emergent fragrance compounds, build the heart of their perfumes. Visit www.artsandscents.com to view their collections.







10. Every unique piece that **Ottely** creates is masterfully designed and handcrafted using only the finest leather and materials. Moreover, their bespoke service means that not only are they providing quality, they are also providing an item that can be tailored exactly to your tastes. What could be more fitting for a thoughtful Christmas gift? To explore their stunning craftsmanship, visit www.ottely.com



11. Infinite possibilities for men and women. Choose between 4 different soles, two lasts and more than 50 fabrics, cords, tassels, buckles, bows and linings. **Mr John's** luxury shoes are masterfully handmade in Spain, and you can select from Blake welted, slippers, espadrilles, golf soles and many more. Design your own shoes with their 3D app in IOS or Android, visit www.mrjohnshoes.com or email info@mrjohnshoes.com

12. Harking back to the golden years of travel, the handcrafted bags by **Rubirosa** encompass style, classic shapes and a vintage elegance. Opting for only the very finest vegetable tanned French leathers and hand-finished in Portugal, luxury and excellence are givens. Visit www.rubirosa.com or email info@rubirosa.ch to explore the brand further.

13. Hay Hampers. Luxury Celebration is the best Christmas gift hamper full of artisan, speciality food and wines carefully sourced from award winning producers from Britain and around the world, especially France and Italy. £350 incl. delivery. Visit www.hampers.co.uk or call 01476 550420.



14. Swithbert & Louis. Individually handmade tweed and silk scarves with buttons, for ladies and gentlemen. The Swithbert & Louis, named after the patron saint of sore throats and button makers, suits any wardrobe, effortlessly blending with a casual outfit or as a striking accessory for a more formal occasion, this modern classic evokes the sartorial elegance of a bygone era of sophistication. Visit www.swithbertandlouis.co.uk or call 07908 762053.

15. The Little Leather Box Company has a brand new green Memory Box/Jewellery Casket in a diamond design leather with a luxury soft fabric interior and a hand-engraved sterling silver plaque: fill it with fine or fashion jewellery or keep your pet memorabilia safe forever. Visit www.thelittleatherboxcompany.com or call 01684 592179.

16. Treat yourself or give as a gift, **Hammamas** the "Clever Cotton Towel" is practical as well as stylish. This absorbent, fast-drying, premium cotton towel can also be worn as a sarong or beach dress. It won't take up much room and comes in a waterproof pouch. Quote TATLER for 20% off and free UK shipping (expires 31/12/2015). Visit www.hammamas.com



17. Platinum J fine fragrances are one-of-a-kind, exclusive scents created to guide and inspire you. Discover the intimate journey through the many facets of a fragrance, layer by layer, note by note. Mix 11 by Platinum J Fragrances is the aromatic oriental woody scent from the fragrance House, perfect for a woman or man. They can also blend custom fragrances that are as unique and special as you. For more information and to see the full collection visit www.platinumj.net



To advertise contact 020 7499 9080 ext 3705

TATLER'S LITTLE HELPER...







1. Little Letter Studio creates high quality art prints for pre-schoolers. Their modern designs blend quirky details with vintage-inspired colours that are fun for children and perfect for contemporary interiors. For more information, visit www.littleletterstudio.com or email jo@littleletterstudio.com

2. Lia Bach's gorgeous range of children's clothing and accessories is not only beautiful to look at, as it is also effortlessly wearable and safe for skin. Made in Germany using the finest Fair Trade organic cotton, Lia Bach's commitment is to creating high-end but ethical children's couture. Visit www.liabach.com or call +4 98924 215333 to find out more.

3. To keep your kids warm and dry this winter, look no further than **Wet Wednesdays**, the UK's leading supplier of the very best children's waterproof clothing from around the world, including fabulously practical fleece lined PU ranges from Scandinavia. Their colourful designs will ensure your little ones will want to wrap up! For more information visit www.wetwednesdays.co.uk or email sales@wetwednesdays.co.uk







4. RemyRoo's beautiful organic collection is a treat for the eyes, as well as the skin. Their commitment to only selling ethically sourced contemporary clothing for your children means that they are not only progressive in style, but in environmentally friendly children's couture. For a 15% discount use code TATLER15 at checkout, valid until 24/12/15. Visit www.remyroo.co.uk to explore the rest of their stunning range, or call 01380 739701 for more information.

5. So Pretty's Winter 2015 collection boasts pretty occasion party dresses and fashionable yet comfortable skirts and shirts for girls aged 3-10 years. This new brand is inspired by fashion forward, feminine materials that promote a love of pretty prints, textures and a touch of sparkle. All the clothing is beautifully handmade in London with limited numbers in each range. Visit www.sopretty.uk.com or email info@sopretty.uk.com for more information.

6. Niddle Noddle is a beautiful children's boutique offering a brilliant selection of unusual stocking fillers for this Christmas! With exclusive fashion, accessories, books, toys and homeware for children (and their parents!), their aim is to bring to you new labels, many of which will be exclusive to Niddle Noddle. Go and visit their store in Crouch End (5 Topsfield Parade, Crouch End, London N8 8RP) or check out their website www.niddlenoddle.com



7. Peacheyboo's adorable collection is a must have for any Tatler tot; their 100% cotton clothing is super soft and snuggly... Showcased here is their sugar mice bundle – including the babygrow, bib and scratch mittens, all for a fantastic £30. To explore this British brand's full collection (all of which would be a welcome addition under any Christmas tree), visit www.peacheyboo.com or www.notonthehighstreet.com or email hello@peacheyboo.com





8. Askival of Strathearn children's kilts are handcrafted with the utmost care and traditional technique; they even have a royal connection, as Prince George's beautiful kilt was made by them. Marion can also handcraft adult kilts, so why not get matching? Made to measurement and preference, and can be pleated to suit, they are utterly unique heirlooms. They can easily be altered to last the wee one a few years, and also for generations to come. Visit www.askivalofstrathearn.co.uk or call 07855 757790.



9. My First Jewellery boast a beautiful range of sterling silver children's jewellery for both little girls and boys, as well as teens, including their unique collection of in house designed and stunning birthstone pieces. Any item from their collection would make the perfect gift to be treasured for a lifetime. Visit www.MyFirstJewellery.com or email enquiries@myfirstjewellery.com for more information.

10. Bebelicious Australia, a Melbourne based designer of contemporary moses baskets. A stunning range of designs are available to compliment your dream nursery. All baskets are chemical free and all linen 100% cotton with organic mattress options to keep baby safe and secure. Bebelicious moses baskets are light weight and portable ensuring your little one is never far from your side. They ship Worldwide. Visit www.bebelicious.com.au or call +61425 644299.



11. Jam & Jelly Parties, based in Cheshire, are children's party planners. They will tailor your child's party to the utmost detail, ensuring that it's a magical day to be remembered. From hiring out their unique Lotus Belle tent, to catering for baby events, tea parties, themed birthday parties (and more), at a venue of your choice, they will take care of every element. They can cater for mums and dads too! For further information visit www.jamandjelly.uk or call 07969 229573.



12. Bo&Bel is a luxurious range of teething accessories perfect for you and your little dribbler to look stylish. Their silicone teething necklaces in modern designs for mum are teamed with beautiful fabric dribble bibs and organic wooden teething rings made from soft, absorbent bamboo towelling for your baby. They make perfect gifts, visit the collection at www.boandbel.co.uk or email boandbel@gmail.com



13. Dazzle and Fizz Parties is a theatrical children's party planner delivering magical events for children aged 0-16 years. Clients include members of the Royal Family and the prestigious Harrods Lifestyle. For more information, visit www.dazzleandfizzparties.co.uk or call 01932 961422.

14. Beibamboo offers timeless and season-less organic bamboo/cotton baby wear. Their designs have adjustable sizes giving them long usage, have minimal seams and all labels are on the outside of the garment. For more information on these award winning designs, visit www.beibamboo.com or enquire at info@beibamboo.com

14





HOME FOR CHRISTMAS... *Deck the Halls!*

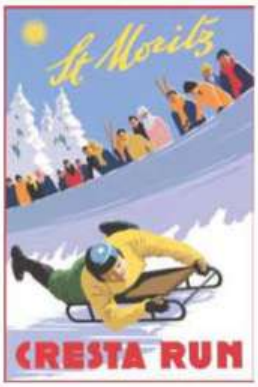

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GRENADIER 4



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LEGACY FOR LUXURY LIVING


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1. Revival Beds have been handcrafting luxurious beds in their workshops since 1983. There are 18 bed designs in the collection, which are all handmade to order from the finest materials and come with free delivery and installation. Visit www.revivalbeds.co.uk or call 01777 869 669.

2. For the most gorgeous Christmas gift, take a look at **Punica**'s gorgeous range of beautiful homewares. With the utmost commitment to quality workmanship and lasting appeal, their collection enables you to experience luxurious textures and beautiful patterns which are reminiscent of exotic places, sunshine and pleasurable times that enrich the comforts of home. Visit www.punica.co.uk or email info@punica.co.uk for more information.

3. The Decorative Collective is an on-line company exhibiting genuine Antique and 20C items from 125+ dealers. It's the UK's leading source for interior designers and discerning clients to gain inspiration and to choose from thousands of desirable items for the home and garden. Shown, from DC member Walpoles, museum quality Coalbrookdale table with painted top after Sir Edward Henry Landseer c1860, £13,500. Visit www.decorativecollective.com

4. Firelighting Without Fuss. The award winning Grenadier Electric Firelighter is guaranteed to light all types of solid fuels fast. No home with a traditional fire should be without this modern firelighter. Order yours today at www.grenadier.co.uk or call 01829 741649.

5. Pullman Editions designs, commissions and publishes striking original posters which capture the enduring appeal of Art Deco. Their newly-commissioned posters feature glamorous winter sports and summer resorts around the world, as well as the world's greatest historic automobiles. All £395 each. Call 020 7730 0547 or view and buy online at www.pullmaneditions.com

6. These beautiful Safari cushion covers by **Juliet Travers** are now on sale for Christmas! With four different designs to choose from, they are the perfect gift for a loved one. Visit www.juliettravers.com to view the full range on offer or email info@juliettravers.com or call 020 7376 2372 for more information.

7. Make sure to check out **Skolnik-London** to see the award winning Statesman Games Table in action. It seamlessly combines Chess, Backgammon and Bridge at the touch of a button, and in the most elegant of designs. Visit www.skolnik-london.com to find out more, call 020 8347 8434 or 07974 726288 or email games@skolnik-london.com

8. Must-Have Bins present a stunning collection of hard to find essential home accessories – baskets, tissues and jardinières, all hand made with exceptional attention to detail – they are just too good to hide. Call 08455 280932 for their fabulous 2015 brochure or visit www.musthavebins.co.uk A bespoke service and international shipping is available.

9. 100% UK made **Tilly Airers** are designed to do the impossible... make wash day a fun day. Bored with the ugly plastic clothes Airer? Look no further! They have 4 beautiful designs; Tilly dog, Tilly cat, Tilly fish and Tilly butterfly. They are not only quirky and unique to look at but they can be used for so many other things too. Towel rails, bedrooms, children's nurseries, primary schools and Tilly butterfly looks amazing in the garden. Visit www.tillyairers.co.uk or call 01525 270266.

10. Ormus Uranium by **Ina Disguise:** Exuberance and practicality go hand in hand with Ina's hardwearing yet fun art objects. Find Ina's artwork and books at www.inadisguise.com or call 07981 109465.

11. Sloane wishes you a Merry little Christmas! TATLER readers use TALLY-HO for 20% off online purchases... exp. 24.12.2015. Visit www.sloanehome.co.uk

12. Simon Kirk has sold three times at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and sells globally, notably to collectors in Europe, Dubai and the USA. In November his work will be on exhibition in Singapore with the Turner Barnes Gallery. Visit www.simonkirkfineart.com

13. Shop **Forwood Design** for this seasons perfect luxe Christmas gifts. Creating original, contemporary furniture and accessories, Forwood Design creates a range of high quality, luxurious furniture, mirrors, lamps and interior accessories. Visit them at www.forwooddesign.com to view their new collection.

To advertise contact 020 7499 9080 ext 3705

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY... *Seasonal Celebrations!*









1. Buy the Festive Fizz double case of Premier Cru champagne from **Finest Fizz.** Tribaut Cuvee de Reserve is wonderful for parties or presents and 12 bottles cost only £288 – which is only £24 per bottle for Premier Cru from the village where Dom Perignon invented champagne. Visit www.finestfizz.biz or call 0800 110 5780.

2. Pic's Peanut Butter uses the best peanuts in the world – hi-oleic runners from Australia, and is New Zealand's best loved PB. With no added palm oil, sugar or weird stuff, Pic's is glorious for its taste and crunchier crunch. Smother over sourdough, celery or apple, or even enjoy straight off the spoon. For more fun stuff visit www.picspeanutbutter.com





3. Sari Cakes are on a mission to create the world's most luxurious cakes. Each intricate masterpiece is individually hand decorated, available in a range of vibrant colours, and packged in super luxurious tins. They taste delicious too and will make an incredible gift this Christmas. Order online at www.saricakes.com or email info@saricakes.com



4. Summerdown chocolate peppermint thins make the perfect gift or after dinner treat. A two-star gold winner in this year's Great Taste awards, they are made using Summerdown's well-known single estate Black Mitcham mint oil. Naturally, the peppermint is grown, harvested and distilled on the farm. Visit www.summerdownmint.com or call 01256 780252.

5. Situated on England's West Dorset coast, **Black Cow Vodka** is the worlds only Pure Milk Vodka™ made entirely from the milk of grass-grazed cows and nothing else. Fresh whole milk makes an exceptionally smooth vodka with a unique creamy character. Available from independent spirit retailers, M&S and Majestic, call 01308 868844 or visit www.blackcow.co.uk



6. The 2009 vintage of one of South Africa's most iconic wines, **Vin de Constance,** is now available in a 1.5 litre magnum bottle. Only 1,266 of these magnums were bottled, each hand-numbered and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity. Presented in a hand-crafted, South African wooden box, the highly awarded Vin de Constance 2009 is most definitely a wine connoisseur's dream. Visit www.kleinconstantia.com or call +21 21 794 5188 for further information.



7. The award winning **Weald Smokery** have introduced a new product, The Royal Fillet of smoked salmon; this premium fillet is simply sliced vertically into medallions, ideal with wasabi paste or soy sauce. New brochure now available with increased range of wonderful quality Gift Boxes and Hampers. Call 01580 879601 or visit www.wealdsmokery.co.uk

8. Frill is the perfect dessert you can indulge in this Christmas without worrying about your waistline! Made from only whole ingredients, this rich and creamy dairy-free ice cream has half the sugar and all the taste. Available at Waitrose. Visit www.frill.eu





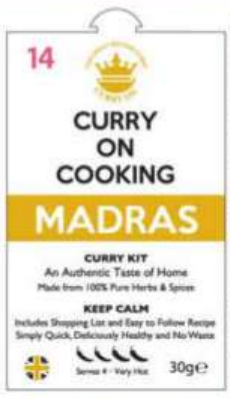


9. Husk & Honey Granola is baked with 100% natural ingredients such as wildflower honey and coconut oil. This Christmas, they present the 'Boxing Day Breakfast' hamper; an exquisite showcase of indulgent breakfast treats, bursting with award-winning, specialty produce, with classic luxury from Rococo Chocolates and Daylesford Organic, and of course, their best-selling granolas. Available at London's fine food markets and www.huskandhoney.co.uk or call 07944 377 640.

10. Fliip Gluten Free make stunningly good food for all occasions, including celebrations and corporate events. Fliip's famous savoury tarts are available in many good shops throughout the south west. Deliciously healthy and a feast for the eye, Fliip makes any event more special. Visit www.fliipglutenfree.co.uk for more information.

11. Crockery and Cupcakes specialises in fabulous, luxurious, authentic vintage fine English china, cake-stands and props etc for hire for afternoon tea parties, charity events, hen parties, birthdays, christenings, weddings and fashion photo shoots. Including styling and delicious bespoke cupcakes, they will add a modern vintage touch and inspire the perfect tea party experience. Visit www.crockeryandcupcakes.co.uk or email crockeryandcupcakes@gmail.com





12. Dandylion is rooted in heart, soul and good food. Their tea blends are achieved by using pure ingredients with no artificial flavours added. They've worked darn hard to create an exceptional range, and they know that you'll just love them. Dandylion Teas supply to discerning retailers. Find them at dandyliongroup.co.uk or on Twitter at @DandyLionGroup

13. As the nights draw in and the clocks go back, low calorie **Get More Vitamin D** will bring the sunshine you are sorely missing. There is no better, nor more delicious pick-me-up to be found for those Winter days, and with More vitamins, More flavour and More convenience, these simple bottles will keep you going. Visit www.moredrinks.co.uk tweet them @morevitdrinks or email info@moredrinks.co.uk for more information.

14. Curry On Cooking. Make way for the new kits on the block! The Great British Curry neatly encapsulated in 6 curry kits From Korma (not just for wimps!) to Madras (OMG how hot?). 100% honest ingredients, gluten, dairy and sugar free. Makes a great gift for the curryholic in your life. Visit www.curryoncooking.com or call 07884 188764.





15. Baked By The Sea deliver beautifully packaged gift boxes containing a range of freshly baked treats to anywhere in the UK. Choose from cakes and savoury scones to traditional cream teas, which come packaged with jam and clotted cream or butter, with knives, napkins and a personalised message. A great gift for any occasion! Visit www.bakedbythesea.co.uk

16. Carnivore Club is the world's first curated charcuterie of the month club. They've become famous for discovering the best British charcuterie artisans and delivering 4-6 of their meats to their member's doors in outrageously nice packaging. The discerning foodie in your life will be impressed with great quality charcuterie shipped directly from local artisans. Subscriptions start at £29/month. Visit www.carnivoreclub.co

HIGH SOCIETY... *Living the High Life!*

VENUES



Hedsor House is an undiscovered gem of venue just moments from London. This secret hideaway is where the stars of the world like to party and one of the hottest venues today. Secluded in the privacy of its own beautiful 100 acre estate, Hedsor is the ultimate setting for spectacular events. Just 30 minutes from the West End, Hedsor is one venue not to be missed. Call 01628 819050 email info@hedsor.com or visit www.hedsor.com



For 700 years **Ripley Castle** has been the quintessential essence of Yorkshire romance. From the moment you arrive the scene is set for a truly enchanting and unique experience. From elegance and grandeur, to the historic cosy intimacy of the private family rooms, Ripley Castle will exceed all your expectations to ensure your dream wedding is here. Call 01423 770152 or email weddings@ripleycastle.co.uk for further information.

GIFTS

Bring a smile into your house
KENTCHURCH BUTLERS

THE PERFECT GIFT THAT WILL LAST FOREVER. Ideal for that birthday, wedding, anniversary or retirement present. Individually hand made & painted in England, these wooden side tables are fun pieces of furniture to rest your drinks etc on and are light enough to move to wherever you want: hall, study or sitting room et al. *Choice of Regiments; Jackets for Butlers & Silks for Jockeys*

From £99 +p&p.

For more models and to order, visit our website below or tel: 07774 959561

www.kentchurchbutlers.co.uk





Imagine enjoying the sky full of stars while sitting on your sofa? This dream can become reality with the Homestar Original from **SEGA TOYS.** The high definition planetarium with the ultra-bright 3 watt LED and rotating movement projects the night sky throughout the year. Fall asleep while gazing at the stars – all for just £99. Visit www.segatoys.space



The perfect stocking filler! **goo.ey** teams up with hot designers and artists to create limited-edition hands-free smart phone cases – Rick Williams, Sophia Webster and Ai Weiwei. Watch films, make videos, chat and take selfies hands-free! For more information visit www.gooeyhq.com



Polargram is an innovative printing service for your Instagram, Facebook and phone photos. Their website and app enables you to transform your memories into classic polaroid prints, canvases, badges, magnets and more. Visit www.polargram.com for free UK shipping and quote TATLER20 at checkout for 20% discount (expires 31/10/15).

PETS



The Dog Cottage Company offer bespoke dog cottages that are constructed from the finest quality materials. Each one comes complete with a PetSafe door, a stunning cedar shingle or natural slate roof and is fully insulated, heated and lit, designed to make your four-legged friend's life as comfortable as yours, whatever the weather. Quote TATDEC for an exclusive 20% discount, ends 2/12/15. Visit www.thedogcottagecompany.com or call them on 0800 975 7360.



Podtrackers. Never lose your pet again! Pod is a sleek little tracking device (about the size of a wine cork), which attaches to your pet's collar and lets you instantly locate your animal from your phone as well as track their activity and fitness levels. Visit www.podtrackers.com

Baker & Bray boasts a range of luxury, handmade products, using the highest-quality fabrics and leathers. Their ready-to-wear range of clothing, collars and leads and bespoke tailoring, guarantees exquisite style and comfort for your canine friend. Visit www.bakerandbray.com



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Going away this Christmas? Don't fret about your home – the lovely team at **The Organisers** will give you peace of mind with their Home Watch service. They'll visit weekly and make sure there is no water pouring through the ceiling and that all the art stays on the walls. If the worst happens, their fast thinking PA's will sort it all out for you whilst you are away. Home management with a zing! Call +44 (0)207 078 7554, email team@theorganisers.com or visit www.theorganisersproperty.com

STAFF & RECRUITMENT



Can't stand another Christmas doing it yourself? Put someone else in charge of the reins...deer! **The Organisers** will arrange your housekeepers, cooks, nannies and butlers so that all you have to do is worry about the relatives! Call +44 (0)207 078 7554, email team@theorganisers.com or visit www.theorganisers.com/household-staff/

BEAUTY

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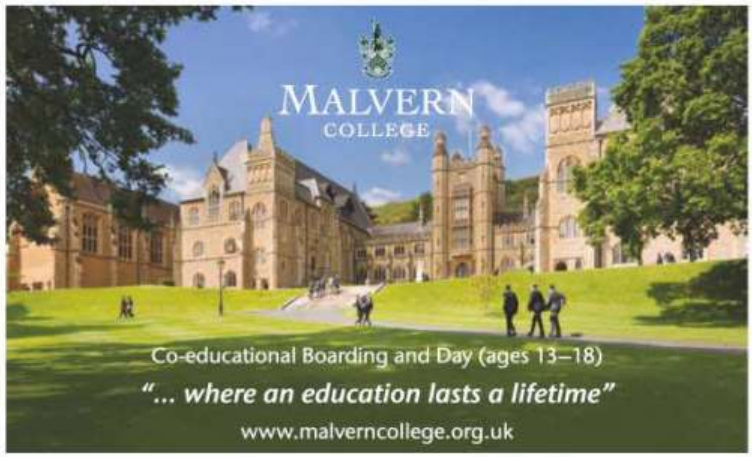
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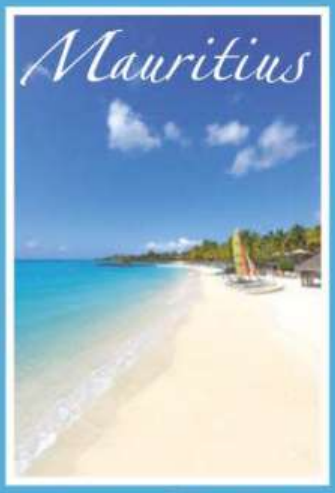
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in a magazine and 'dared to stalk me'. Jackie and Oscar, who married in 1966, became central to late-Sixties London nightlife. Not the toffy Annabel's crowd but the showbizzy Tramp tribe and the rock 'n' roll Ad Lib crew. 'My husband created Ad Lib and it was *the* place,' she said. 'The Beatles, Eric Clapton. Tramp [another of his clubs] was more Shakira and Michael Caine, George Best, all that lot.'

The Caines took Jackie under their wing when she and Oscar moved to his native Hollywood in the Eighties. They remained her great friends. 'I had a fabulous party for Michael Caine a couple of years ago, where Scarlett Johansson sang "Happy Birthday",' she said. 'Jack Nicholson was there, and Al Pacino and Hugh Jackman.' She hung out with Sidney and Joanna Poitier, had girls' dinner dates with Sharon Osbourne, Kris Jenner and Melanie Griffith. She became part of the Hollywood wallpaper – not exactly on the frontline, but still offering her brand of fictional documentation.

She had two more daughters, Tiffany and Rory, with Oscar, and they were married for 26 years, until his death, from cancer, in 1992. 'He was a very smart businessman, very settled, perfect for me at that time, because I'd always gone for wild boys. He encouraged me to write. Nobody had ever encouraged me before.' The air of American opportunity and possibility may also have lubricated her pen. She wrote in the car on the school run. She wrote in bed. She wrote while cooking the children's dinner, and nearly 50 years later here we are, with the release of *The Santangelos*, her murder-and-fuck fest of a family saga.

'Roleplay' is the advice she offered for a happy marriage. 'And never come out of character. You say to your husband, "Get your mother to look after the kids – we're going to meet at this hotel. At the bar." You meet him. You look different – wear a wig – you have a fantastic time. He's a travelling salesman or whatever and you're a businesswoman stopping over for the night. In the morning you leave before he gets up and you never mention it again.' Speaking from experience? Who knows. Broad brushstrokes. So commercial. Sort of compressed. Perhaps by illness but, more likely, by decades on junkets. Certainly she was bright-eyed and in no rush, despite time being intensely – profoundly – short. And she was interested. Of course she was. Such storytellers always are...

Though thin, nine days before her death, she looked a million dollars. She didn't travel with a 'glam squad', but the bouffant (this was no chemo wig), shoulder pads and bedroom eye-make-up were firmly in evidence. She wore huge triple-hoop diamond earrings, an enormous heart-shaped sapphire pendant and the vast pear-cut-diamond engagement ring given to her by her late fiancé, Frank Calcagnini, who died in 1998. After Frank, she designed and bought her own jewellery, a piece per book. She wrote – longhand – in black pen in a black tracksuit and wore a uniform of black trousers and dark jacket for day, white jacket for night, if she was out. 'Joan is a force of nature,' she said. 'Her idea of a good time is a fabulous lunch followed by a fabulous dinner. That's my idea of hell.'

Retirement was a filthy word. She no longer wrote to shock, but she always wrote to titillate. 'I write sexy things. I don't write porn. I write sex.' And she didn't care what people thought of her. 'You get smarter as you get older. You get to the stage in life where you go, "Fuck it." I don't give a fuck about anything. I do my own thing. I'm happy doing my own thing.' How would she like to be remembered? 'As someone who gave people a lot of pleasure...' Dot, dot, dot, indeed, Jackie. May you rest in peace. □

Jackie Collins's last book, The Santangelos, is published by Simon & Schuster at £20.

THIS IS THE PAGE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 167



Her honesty and empathy are key to her appeal – on a visit to Wellington Barracks that I accompanied her on, her blue eyes filled with tears on hearing about a soldier who needs a holiday arranged at once because he has cancer and not long to live. She has become friends with many of the people she has helped. 'I do it because it's such a great charity, but mainly because it gives me joy and it challenges me.' The idea that she is helping families stay together is also key. 'I know how important my family unit is, divorced, half, step, whatever. Each and every person in my family plays such an important role, and the wellbeing of all those family members and the closeness are what make me feel a whole person and are what get me through the day.'

'She is an indispensable member of the team,' says Liam Fox. 'She is charming, she works really hard, and people do respond to her authenticity. People want to meet her, and when they have met her, they want to help her.' When Kitty is not working, she likes to have dinners with her friends, or just be at home reading or listening to music. 'I have terrible taste – my mother's favourite band is the Gipsy Kings and my father's is Supertramp, so I blame them.' She is not grand, despite the grand name – instead, she is happy. It's a great victory to be happy. In a way it's a kind of rebellion, from the girl who has never smoked a cigarette, from the girl who should make her whole family proud. □

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Too often this is the case for military families. Last month, we sent several families to a golf resort and spa in Turkey. One married couple in their 40s had never been away together before. Not once. I am so proud that Give Us Time is able to provide this precious time for rest and reconnection for those who need it most.

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PHOTOGRAPH: WILLIAM KLEIN/CONDE NAST







Swallows and Amazons here we come!

Adventure, wildlife, glorious countryside and open views, vernacular and contemporary architecture, fantastic facilities and good old-fashioned family fun are Habitat First Group's hallmarks. It was founded by the late property entrepreneur Jeremy Paxton, who developed the UK's first residential nature reserve at Lower Mill Estate. Claire Pilton meets his son Red at the family's second scheme of sustainable homes in Dorset

It is absolutely bucketing with rain when Red Paxton drives up to the timber-clad sales office at Silverlake; but the weather really doesn't matter. With the huge expanse of empty sky, and the unexpected outlook over a lunar-like lake to forestry and fields beyond, it feels as though we're in the middle of nowhere.

In fact, Silverlake is just three miles from Ringstead Bay on the Jurassic Coast, five miles between Weymouth and Dorchester. It occupies the site of Warmwell's WWII airbase and a 100-year-old sand quarry. The holiday homes will cover less than a third of the land, with some 300 acres given over to providing a natural habitat for wildlife – and a natural playground for residents. Or rather second-homers, as property cannot be used as a primary residence at Silverlake, which is being developed along similar lines to the Paxton's Lower Mill Estate in the Cotswolds.

Red points to "the growing number of UK families who are fed up with or fearful of holidaying, half-terming and week-ending abroad." Families who, far from hankering after the barefoot luxury of long-haul destinations, are searching for what he describes as 'grounded luxury'.

"Our concept appeals to ordinary people who've worked hard and done well; who hire a chef for special occasions, but not all the time. Who want their children to explore the great outdoors and be able to play out of sight safely, to take part in bush-craft courses and night safaris. Today's youngsters aren't allowed to venture out alone, especially in towns. At Lower Mill they are encouraged to make their own tracks through the reserve and make their own memories too."

Around 70% of Lower Mill's 320 owners come from London; there are a handful of expats and a few out-and-out investors who are looking ahead









10 years when everything will be finished. The estate already sports a huge spa with Europe's first eco-pool, an organic farm and farm shop, and a clubhouse and restaurant that opened this summer; it has consent for 575 properties but, given the trend for double plots, is unlikely to reach that number. Red reports average plot prices are now £350,000 compared to £60,000 when his father launched the scheme 16 years ago.

A champion water skier, Jeremy Paxton went to coach in the USA where he stayed in gated holiday home communities. He introduced them to the UK back in the 1970s, a time when caravans and tents were the norm. Starting at the lodge-on-the-back-of-a-lorry end of the market, he established Watermark (which still exists), extended it to four sites and sold the lot to acquire Lower Mill in 1996. Like Silverlake, it was a quarry pit with no planning: a shrewd gamble that paid off.

Having established there was scope in the UK for more Lower Mills, Paxton acquired the Silverlake site two years before his unexpected death in 2013. Red, who had worked at Habitat First Group for seven years, took up the reins together with his sister Ruby, who heads the company's holiday rental arm, Habitat Escapes, and younger brother Rory, who joined the sales team this year. Having left school at 16, Red "never wanted to work for Dad. DJ-ing beckoned; marketing followed. Dad began asking my advice about marketing at Lower Mill and offered me a job during the recession. After selling 14 properties in six months, I re-negotiated my package and worked my way up to head of sales and marketing!"

"At Silverlake, we're taking Dad's eco-rooted ethos to the next level, introducing new energy-efficient designs and some serious holiday infrastructure." Tree-top walkways, zip wires, a climbing wall and huge play area, MUGA games and tennis courts are teamed with a secluded glade and hammocks, several beaches (there's no shortage of sand) and a dedicated spot for camp-fires beside a 1950s Airstream caravan. Three lakes for fishing and boating will be followed by canal-canoe safaris around 10 reclaimed islands (with 30 homes on each), a large health club and restaurant, farm shop, bakery and a 50-room hotel and country club.

The first cluster of 31 properties at Beaumont Village includes 11 terraced cottages priced from £295,000 and six water-fronting properties that rise to £2.5 million. Purchasers can choose from 10 designs; alternatively one of Habitat First Group's existing designs can be modified, or an architect commissioned to create a new one. Recommended builders will then customise the layout and interior to the owner's specifications. "Basically it's self-build without the *Grand Designs* headaches," says Red, who sold 13 homes within four months of launching.

Red's championing of old-fashioned fun is refreshing and reflects his own family's values. "People who were growing up in the 1960s and 70s want to reconnect with their youth and see their children enjoy the same experiences." He and his siblings are proudly protective of the legacy their father left them and those like-minded families who wish to hide away in the depths of a flourishing residential nature reserve.

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CAPITAL *COOL*

Claire Pilton gets street smart in London's emerging hot spots



In London Fields, all 30 flats at Warehaus sold off-plan

It is extraordinary to think that just 30 years ago in the Sloane Rangers' heyday, Kings Road, Parsons Green, Wandsworth Bridge Road and 'Batter-ci-a' were not only 'in', but also well within the budget of London's bright young things. Now the cool crowd is looking way beyond the perimeters of 'prime outer London' with first-time buyers, second steppers and young families aspiring to areas such as Ealing, Acton, Kensal Green, Queen's Park, Kilburn and Shepherd's Bush in the west, Earlsfield, Brixton, Peckham and Bermondsey in the south, and to the east: Whitechapel, Hoxton, Haggerston, Dalston, Stoke Newington and Clapton.



Hailed by *Vogue* as South London's coolest quarter after White Cube opened on Bermondsey Street, the £1 billion regeneration of the New Bermondsey area will include improved transport and world-class sports facilities. A brisk walk from the overground and tube, **Bermondsey Works** will provide 148 apartments above a primary school and sixth-form academy. Available through Telford Homes (01992 809800).



Hackney's headline scheme Warehaus (pictured) saw all 30 flats sold off-plan and off-market within four months. Now super-sassy Union Developments (0800 0432523) is about to release **143 Mare Street**, E8, a new-build, mixed-use scheme of 47 flats priced from £450,000. The 30,000 sq ft of cool commercial space will include a designer-restaurant with a courtyard cinema for pop-up events.



Fabrica's striking urban scheme of 327 apartments at **City Wharf** (0800 0833199) sits alongside the canal on Wenlock Basin near City Road, EC1. Well placed for the Old Street district, Shoreditch and Hoxton, it is also within walking distance of the City. With over a third sold, predominantly to owner-occupiers, prices in the second phase now start from £500,000.

"A 30-acre park and proper café culture, boutique shops, great transport, a strong, long-term community… you can't beat Queen's Park*," says Laura Dam Villena, who has lived here for 10 years and recently opened Knight Frank's local office (020 3815 3020). "For young families in search of more space for their money, a three-bedroom house on Tennyson Road, NW6, affords the opportunity to convert the loft and do the side return to create a substantial four-bedroom home. After 40 years, the owners are seeking £1.2 million. Alternatively on Carlisle Road, £2.25 million will secure a property where these works have been carried out."*



This picture and inset: a house on Carlisle Road in Queen's Park

"**Peckham's** popularity has exploded among young professionals," says Jason Davis of Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward (020 3199 8071) who reports "a significant number of first-time buyers registering with budgets as high as £800,000." The mix of bars, restaurants and coffee shops that have sprung up, together with the high streets of Nunhead Lane and Queen's Road and great overground links, make Peckham a worthy and more affordable alternative to areas such as Battersea, Clapham, Brixton and Herne Hill. Within a short walk of Nunhead, Peckham Rye and Queens Road stations is this six-bedroom house on Consort Road, SE15, on at £1.1 million.



Consort Road

High prices in Islington and Shoreditch have seen young professionals and families moving to the more affordable parts of Hackney, particularly Dalston and Stoke Newington. Restaurants, bars and independent shops are opening and property prices are rising. Hackney *saw the highest increase in London for 2014/2015, reports Richard Everitt of Winkworth (020 8986 4216) who anticipates the borough's popularity and price increases will spread to areas like Clapton – where this two-bedroom flat, on Clapton Square, costs £539,999.*

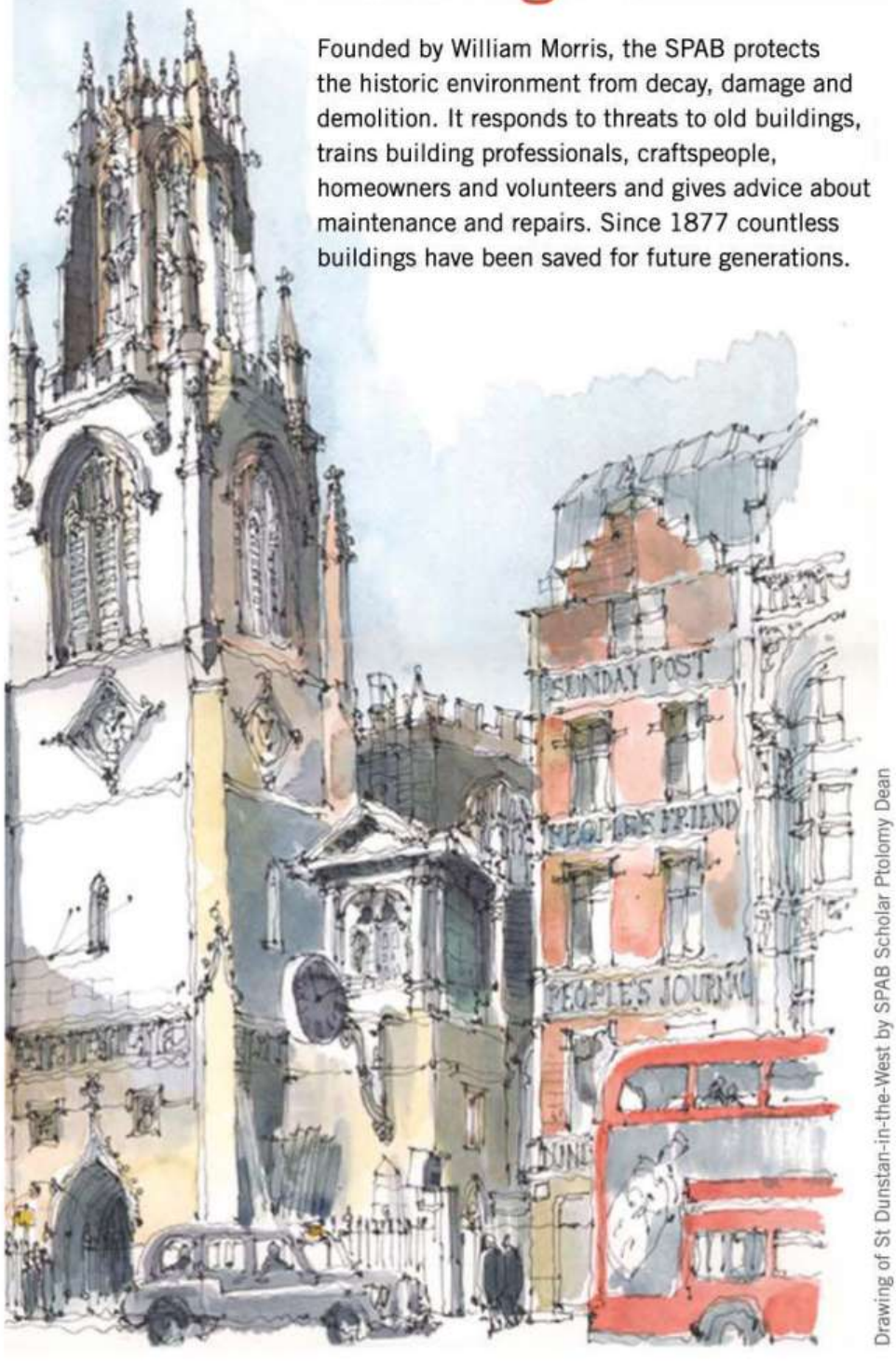


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Drawing of St Dunstan-in-the-West by SPAB Scholar Ptolomy Dean

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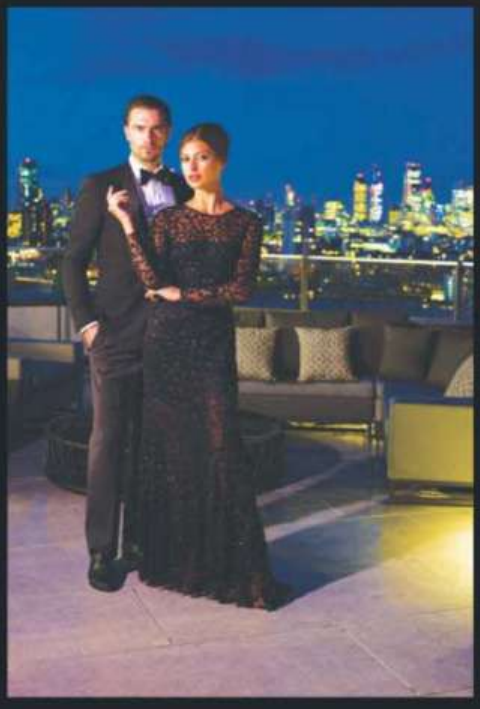
The Lateral Penthouse and The Triplex Penthouse offer new levels of luxury living. As you walk through the entrance halls on the bespoke Cheville Parquet flooring, the sumptuous and elegant surroundings embrace you. With floor to ceiling glazing, the views are awe-inspiring and all London landmarks are on display, with a constantly changing dramatic virtual canvas in whichever direction you gaze. In addition natural light floods these truly exceptional apartments and when the sun goes down the light show provided by the buildings along London's skyline is truly breathtaking.

THE LATERAL PENTHOUSE • £3M

THE TRIPLEX PENTHOUSE • £6M

Prices correct at time of going to press.





The quality of both homes is apparent from the moment you enter, from the feature designer kitchens by Molteni & C with integrated Gaggenau and Miele appliances, the fully automated blinds and curtains, lighting, audio and visual, designer wardrobes to bedrooms, mood lighting and coffered ceilings in all rooms. Grandeur and opulence also abound within the bathroom suites, with beautiful textures of marble, porcelain and stone combining to showcase the top quality sanitaryware. All of these touches create apartments that are the very pinnacle of penthouse living.

The Triplex Penthouse, whose entire top three floors crown the development, also features a substantial private terrace with outdoor bespoke kitchen, weatherproof outdoor TV and Riviera cedar wood hot tub. Access to each floor is via a bespoke helically fanned wooden staircase designed and installed by TinTab, a work of art in its own right. The staircase leads to a fully automated glass roof light that when opened provides access to the secondary roof terrace. At the pinnacle of Parliament House, this unique area provides an amazing vantage point over the Capital with uninterrupted sweeping views up The River Thames towards The Houses of Parliament and the City and south towards Battersea.

The Penthouse Collection, designed and furnished by renowned interior specialists Honky, is certain to impress even the most discerning buyer, particularly those keen to entertain and take full advantage of the London skyline.

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Photographs depict the private roof terrace and view from The Triplex Penthouse, part of The Penthouse Collection.

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CHRISTMAS LIST

Make the most of the festive season with this merry medley, from colourful paintings to some extremely sophisticated Wendy houses. By *Rosemary Brooke*



MANSIONS IN MINIATURE

For the Christmas present to trump all Christmas presents – something, perhaps, for the wannabe architect in your family – check out Cornish-based Love Lane Caravans, which has brought out a new collection of tabernacles with the concept of 'Wendy houses for grown-ups'. They were previewed at this year's Goodwood Revival, and each one is modelled on a historic building – recent projects include a miniature version of a 19th-century Methodist chapel. 'We work with each customer to create something unique to them: we love nothing better than a 'crazy' idea, or a reflection of someone's roots – all mixed up with a flash of eccentricity,' says co-founder Anna Bingham. From £22,000. *www.lovelanecaravans.com*



Deck the halls

Brighten up someone's life with one of Milly Flamburiari's captivating paintings – the artist opens her new exhibition *Simple Pleasures* on 7 December at Gallery 8 on Duke Street in London's Mayfair. The show encompasses several varying groups of Flamburiari's work, each with a different style and subject. From Jazz Age scenes to geometric designs, Flamburiari's art is immersed in imagination and subtle humour: her colourful compositions will bring joy long after the festive season has ended. Prices range from £950-£2,400. Open daily from 7–12 December from 10.30am to 6.30pm, also by private appointment. *Visit www.millyflamburiaripaintings.com or call 020 7937 7064/ 07885 410574*





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SNOWY, JACK GUINNESS'S CHIHUAHUA



When you get to my age, the last thing you want is to 'go walkies'. Listen, I'm a 52-year-old bitch (in dog years, that is) with one tooth and a libido as high as the Matterhorn. It's why they call me Snowy. So I lie in bed past noon most days, then kick Jack out to make me breakfast. He has to pre-chew everything then feed it to me, mouth-to-mouth. Every party bitch gotta have a bitch. Later, I sleep some more, then it's din-dins.

Afterwards, it's 'special time' with Hippo the cuddly toy, or what's left of him. Jack doesn't mind my insatiable sex drive. He understands. That doesn't mean I'm up for anything, though – I absolutely draw the line at other dogs sniffing my private parts. It's just a shame Pixie Geldof's dog, Buster, doesn't seem to have got that message... ***As told to Matthew Bell***

While Snowy made sexy time with Hippo, Jack made profuse apologies on her behalf.

Photographed by MARK COCKSEDGE


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PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN AKEHURST



TATLER Hair guide 2016

A few months ago, a Frenchman named Nelson gave me the most extraordinary head massage: firm, exact, delivered with the authority of someone who's been doing it for years. Ten minutes of neck kneading, pressure pointing and scalp rubbing, and I was practically out cold.

Nelson is not a masseur, he is a hairdresser. But going to the salon isn't just about getting your hair done. A skilled wash and condition is the beginning of what can be hours of scrutinising, snipping, combing, gossiping, dyeing and snipping some more – but those first 10 minutes are important. An amazing 85 per cent of women say that the time spent at the backwash is their favourite part of the process: it signals the start of something entirely pleasurable and self-indulgent.

Nelson did an impressive blowdry: swingy, shiny, gloriously quick. But it was the head massage that I remembered. In that 10 minutes – sat back in a reclining chair with my eyes shut – I forgot where I was.

That's the point of a good salon and a good hairstylist: not just to give you a swishy head of hair, but to let you put things on pause, if only for a moment. They're good for the hair, yes – but they're also good for the soul.

Francesca White
HAIR GUIDE EDITOR

PHOTOGRAPH: WILLIAM KLEIN/CONDE NAST. POST PRODUCTION: SINISA SAVIC



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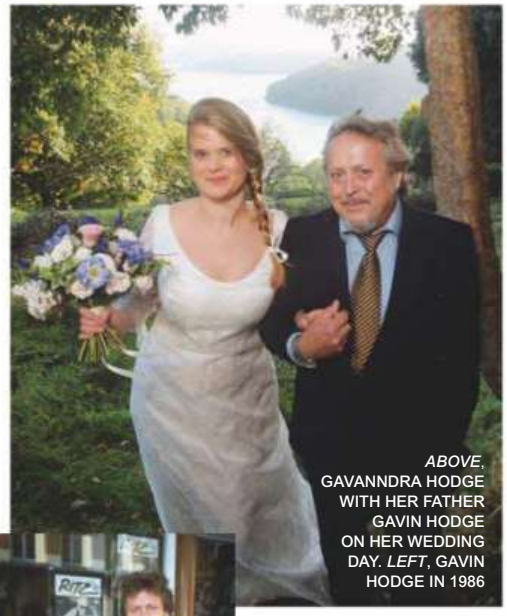
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‘HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER CUT MY HAIR’

And then he died. Gavanndra Hodge on losing her father – and her hairdresser

My father was a hairdresser – a good one, a famous one (although he was probably more notorious for sleeping with his clients than what he did with their hair). The stink of perming solution, the drone of a hair dryer, the rustle of foil – these were the smells and sounds of my childhood.

He loved the chat, loved the intimacy of hairdressing, of touching someone’s head, sweeping a lock of hair behind their ear. Each time he saw a client, the conversation that they’d had the last time was picked up again, even if it was a year later. How are things with your husband? You’ve lost weight. Is your mother better? His clients became friends; some had been coming to see him for 40 years. They could tell him anything and he would offer advice, get them to laugh, all the while making them more beautiful – or handsome – than they had been when they walked into his salon. That was his gift.





ABOVE, GAVANNDRA HODGE WITH HER FATHER GAVIN HODGE ON HER WEDDING DAY. *LEFT*, GAVIN HODGE IN 1986

My father was the only person who cut or coloured my hair. My whole life. I loved sitting in the chair while he zipped about with his scissors. I glowed in his focus. He gave me a thick fringe when I was six, and cut it all off, at my request, when I was a 10-year-old tomboy. He created a sharp bob for my first Feathers Ball, and as my blonde hair darkened to mouse, he started highlighting it. I’d mix up my own bleach and fold my own foils, and then I would relax into the process, two hours or more, just us. My hair is thick and it took forever; he joked about getting one of the other hairdressers at the salon to do it, but he never did. It was always him. Then he would blowdry it, sometimes burning my ear with the dryer. At the end, he would bring out a mirror and hold it behind my head so I could see how it looked from the back. He was pleased I had nice hair, proud even, like it was the same as having a talent for sport or getting good A-level results.

His shoulders went eventually – arthritis, a common complaint for hairdressers. He gave up his final salon, the one in Beauchamp Place, and kept just a few beloved clients, me included, who he would do at his flat in Battersea. He had a grand marble dressing table and a massive gilt mirror, and the process became even more intimate. There was always a glass of wine and music playing.

He was a particularly brilliant wedding hairdresser, and not just because he specialised in glamorous updos (he had been doing them since the Sixties, when all the debs and girls-about-town routinely went to a hairdresser for a chic chignon). No, it was not just that. His approach was to get everyone to leave the room, especially the bride’s mother. Then it was just him and the bride, and probably a bottle of champagne. This way, she got an hour to herself on the most hectic day of her life, while my dad gossiped and blasted away all her nerves. I’ve spoken to many people who had their hair done by my dad on their wedding day, and they all said that it was one of the things they remembered most clearly. He did my hair when I got married. And was unusually quiet and restrained. He was emotional. I could feel it. His hands shook.

But when I was 35, he died suddenly. He was 65. I cannot begin to tell you how sad I was. But I didn’t have time for that at first – I had a funeral to organise. There was so much to do. I worked non-stop, and when it was finally getting close to looking like it would all happen – a ceremony at St Mary The Boltons, a party at the Orangery in Kensington Gardens – I realised I had to get my hair done. I am a hairdresser’s daughter, I couldn’t stand in front of everyone and read a Thomas Hardy poem with my roots showing.

So I went to another hairdresser for the first time. Two, in fact: Debbie Bhowmik for my highlights and John Vial for my cut and blowdry. The moment I walked into the salon I began to feel the tension ebb away. The sounds, the smells, the bustle. It was all so familiar. And Debbie and John were like gifts from a compassionate god. Debbie is calm and empathetic, an instinctive listener, as well as being an incredibly talented colourist. I felt safe with her, relaxed. John is brilliant too, but in a different way – all energy and gossip. He has that gift of instant intimacy that my dad had, not scared to talk about anything. He wanted to know all about my father; the mad, bad days, the fun.

I walked out with my hair looking more beautiful than it had when I had walked in. But, more importantly, I felt better inside, I felt restored, mended. And I still do, whenever I see them both (John and Debbie have kindly adopted me, the daughter of a hairdresser whose father is dead). I always feel happier after seeing them, physically and mentally, and that is what the very best hairdressers are able to do. □

Tint, from £125, half-head highlights, £255, with Debbie Bhowmik. At Michaeljohn, 25 Albemarle Street, W1 (michaeljohn.co.uk; 020 7629 6969). Consultation and cut, £500, further visits, £350, with John Vial (johnvial.com; info@johnvial.com)

PHOTOGRAPH: REX FEATURES

TOP 10 Therapists

They know everything about your hair, but more importantly, they know everything about you

James Galvin at DANIEL GALVIN



On first impressions, James is very cool. Hair-pulled-up-in-a-topknot, arms-covered-in-tattoos, rides-to-work-on-a-Vespa cool. But that doesn't mean he's too cool for conversation. Nor is he the type to palm you off with a stack of well-thumbed magazines – no, no, no, the man is charm personified: he remembers the names of your children/your birthday/the renovations that you were knee-deep in the last time you sat in front of him, and there's proper eye contact when he listens, says something thoughtful, then resumes methodically sectioning hair with a tail comb. Give him a nudge and he'll tell you about his latest trip to Ibiza, or the wild party he just went to at Soho House – but you'll have to be persistent, because he'll have steered the conversation back to you before you've realised. (Truth be told, he's happiest talking about his kids.) It goes without saying that James does a seriously good blowdry (shiny, not too 'done' – it's why he's the new ambassador for Kérastase). But it's the little things – like nipping to the local deli to get you an almond latte while your hair is being washed, or walking you to your car with an umbrella afterwards – that set this gentleman apart. *Blowdry with James, £100. At 67 Abingdon Road, W8 (daniel galvin.com; 020 3544 6535).*

GUY PARSONS at GORGEOUS HAIRDRESSING



'I must have had 35,000 one-hour conversations,' says Guy Parsons, owner of Gorgeous in NW10. 'I know an awful little about an extreme lot.' Parsons, who was namechecked in Rachel Johnson's *Notting Hell* as the go-to guy for the W11 set, has snipped everyone from Annie Lennox to Jade Jagger – and inspires devotion among his clients. Why? He's a trichologist (his My Hair Doctor range launches next spring), so he actually cares about your hair. That's the science bit. Also, he knows EVERYTHING. As a Kensal Rise early adopter (his salon moved to Chamberlayne Road in 2008 – it's now regularly voted the most fashionable street in Europe), Guy says his business grew up with the area. So if you need to know where to eat or send your kids to school, or who to rent with, he's your man. Then there's the other stuff. If your child is pulling out her hair and you need advice. If you have cancer and need someone to take you wig shopping. That stuff. That's the magic bit. *Cut with Guy, £65. At 12 Station Terrace, NW10 5RT (gorgeouskr.com; 020 8969 2131).*

Scott Ade at DANIEL HERSHESON



Hershesons is a rare breed: firing on all cylinders, rammed to the rafters with deeply efficient stylists, colourists, beauticians and receptionists – but without an ego. And no one personifies this more than Scott. He's the equivalent of the friend that you've known since school: never not pleased to see you, full of questions and a pro at pre-empting what it is that you need. In knots about a relationship? He'll switch off the hairdryer at regular intervals to discuss the matter. Run into the ground, dog-tired, would rather be at the backwash having a head massage? He'll get you a drink and crack on with his (rather excellent) cutting in silence. He choreographs everything around you (like rejigging his schedule if your colour runs over, or tracking down a manicurist if you mumble something about the state of your nails), but he won't make a song and dance about it. There's no self-importance, no temper, no worries if you turn up five minutes late; he's as affable with the juniors he trains as he is with his longest-standing clients. Which says it all really. *Cut with Scott, £125. At 45 Conduit Street, W1 (hershesons.com; 020 7434 1747).*

Josh Wood at JOSH WOOD ATELIER



Josh Wood is an old soul. He may wear difficult Prada shirts buttoned up – hipster style – to his chin, he may run around the most prestigious backstages at the international fashion weeks creating never-before-seen hair shades, he may be best friends with the bold and the beautiful, but he is an old soul. Unshockable, he is nonetheless deeply empathetic. Fully versed in therapeutic language, he is, regardless, truly droll. He is drily Northern. And discreet. And – on his travels from yacht to catwalk to stately to Shoreditch – he has seen it all. Beyond the remarkable wisdom lies a huge heart. So he's been hurt too – and he'll share that. Trust him and he'll trust you. Rarefied he isn't. Real he is. And his advice is more than salon time-filling – it is rooted in experience. He's not just the best colourist in London. He might just be the best person in London. *Colour with Josh, price on consultation. At 6 Lansdowne Mews, W11 (joshwoodcolour.com; 020 3393 0977).*

ED JAMES at EDWARD JAMES



You always remember the day you fell a little in love with your hairdresser. You don't? Perhaps that's because you've yet to get over to Ed James's salon in Putney. Because here, Ed will welcome you with open arms – even when you're on the verge of a breakdown/stressed beyond belief/haven't slept for weeks. Here you can collapse in a heap in a chair, and you can rant on and on and ON, fuelled by a steady stream of herbal tea and chocolate biscuits, while he carefully highlights hair and listens. And – because he's also a mind reader – he knows when talking simply isn't going to cut the mustard. So, every once in a while, this lovely man will whisk you downstairs to the cosy little spa, he'll arrange for you to have a deeply remedial back-neck-and-shoulder massage – and then he'll leave you there. Face down and with your foils in. It's this sort of service (caring, perceptive, always one step ahead) that sums him up. Simply put, an appointment with Ed isn't about him, it's about you. And we love him for it. *Highlights with Ed, from £105. At 77 Putney High Street, SW15 (edwardjameslondon.com; 020 8789 9639).*

Jack Howard at PAUL EDMONDS



We've been shouting Jack's name all over town for years. Yes, he's an expert at balayage – but he's also a genuinely nice chap with hilarious chat, a booming laugh and the warmest smile in Knightsbridge. The man will indulge you in debates about Dior, dogs and dating disasters till he's blue in the face, pushing his square-rimmed glasses up his nose as he flick, flick, flicks his brush with the choreographed madness of an abstract expressionist painter. So you'll leave with the hair of Poppy Delevingne and the grin of Julia Roberts – we guarantee it.* *Balayage with Jack, from £250. At 217 Brompton Road, SW3 (pauledmonds.com; 020 7589 5958).*

*OK, WE CAN'T REALLY GUARANTEE THE JULIA ROBERTS BIT. PHOTOGRAPHS: EMMA MYRTLE, RUTH ROSE, SIMON SONGHURST

JACK THIRLWAY at NEVILLE HAIR & BEAUTY



Jack is a linchpin at Neville. Never in a bad mood, always in some natty dandy-meets-hipster-meets-model outfit (fluoro trainers, skinny tie, the most cheerful thing to see in the morning) – the combined effect makes him a handsome agony aunt. His secret? Making you ready to face the world – inside and out – when you'd rather crawl back into bed. Endlessly patient, he'll listen to you rabbit on about your headache/the boy who stopped following you on Instagram/the broken boiler – and he'll pitch up at your house if you've got an early start, delivering a snappy blowdry that makes you feel as hot as hell. A word of advice, however: women LOVE him – so you may have to join the queue. *Blowdry with Jack, £50. At 5 Pont Street, SW1 (nevillehairandbeauty.net; 020 7235 3654).*

Jenna Norman at DANIEL HERSHESON

HARVEY NICHOLS



Jenna landed on her feet when she apprenticed for Hersheson's uber-colourist Sibi Bolan: now, eight years later, this ray of sunshine is one of the salon's rising stars. It's down to her approach: gentle, conversational, none of that scary 'my way or no way' attitude – whether it's your first time in the chair, or if you're in on a strict monthly basis. Always the first to ask after a sprained toe, a sick relative or the cherished terrier, Jenna is wise beyond her 25 years: a friend and adviser rolled into one – and with an infectious giggle. *Tint with Jenna, from £90. At Harvey Nichols, 109–125 Knightsbridge, SW1 (hershesons.com; 020 7201 8797).*

Melanie Pellegrini at JOHN FRIEDA



Melanie does a blowdry in as little as 15 minutes AND she's game for appointments from 7.30am. So not only does she get you pre-coffee, with no make-up and four-day-old hair thick with dry shampoo – she gets you at your most vulnerable. The result is that she ends up knowing more about your love life/hopes/fears and dreams than your closest friends. Easygoing and uncomplicated, with a wicked sense of humour, she won't panic if you need to change your appointment suddenly. She'll shut up when you're sleep-deprived/hungover/too cross to talk; she'll listen when you're ready to offload. And her assistants (young, good-looking, perpetually perky) are cut from the same cloth – which is useful. *Blowdry with Melanie, £45. At 4 Aldford Street, W1 (johnfrieda.co.uk; 020 7491 0840).*

ANDREW BARTON at URBAN RETREAT



Visiting a hairdresser can, quite frankly, be as terrifying as a stint in the dentist's chair – but not so with Urban Retreat's creative director Andrew Barton. Yes, he has awards for being British Hairdresser of the Year and British Hair Icon and... well, the list goes on. But don't imagine he's become carried away with his own brand. Nor will he tut when you deny him the chance to stamp his creative vision on your hair, and instead simply request a trim – an invisible one at that. Heavens no, he'll do it without frowning at your lack of originality. And he'll do it with dedication, even if it requires beckoning a fellow stylist to hold your head perfectly still as he cuts your hair just so. Don't fret, though – Andrew may be serious when it comes to your hair (a good thing, clearly), but as he grins over your shoulder, merrily talking about Formentera and laughing sincerely at your jokes – both out loud and with his twinkly eyes – you can tell that he is also jolly good fun. *Cut and blowdry with Andrew, £350. At Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (urbanretreat.co.uk; 020 7893 8333).*

Gadgets



Fed up with your locks? Emma Freud says it's time to make friends with your hair – and has found the gadgets to oversee the treaty

HAIR WE GO...



Bathroom mirror TV



Super-fast heated rollers



Rollers/brush combo



Best straighteners



Twisting tool



Doll with hair that grows

This month, while testing hair-related gadgets on behalf of you, my favourite of all supplement readers, and consequently doing a lot of thinking about hair, it has dawned on me that an injustice has been going on. In general, there is nothing wrong with my hair, as I am sure there is nothing wrong with yours but, as I find myself day after day wetting the stuff, washing it, conditioning it, drying it, styling it, staring at it and occasionally floofing it up, I realise that most of the time I'm basically slightly grumpy it's not wavy like Jennifer Lawrence's, lush like Beyoncé's, silky like Audrey Hepburn's or massive like Blake Lively's. After exercise, I'm embarrassed that my locks look like a sweat helmet and sometimes I get a cut so bad my guinea pig has better hair than me. Occasionally I home-dye it and by mistake it comes out overly goth, so I have to hate it for a few weeks, while the odd grey hair means I have to have it touched up so regularly I know the colour person at the Salon of Shame better than my own children.

To summarise, there has been a little internal war going on between me and my hair, and possibly you and yours, and it's time for us to stop. In truth, hair is incredible. It keeps your head warm, hides your forehead wrinkles, can withstand being cut, baked and blasted with all those heated appliances. It grows newer, healthier shoots every day, and if you don't wash it much it adapts to your schedule. It deserves to be appreciated and cherished, rather than endlessly found lacking – its only real crime is to sometimes block the sink. So here are six gadgets, all of which I would like you to consider as ways to make the lovely stuff even lovelier, rather than to tame the annoying beast that lives on top of your head. Lesson over.

BATHROOM MIRROR TV

Ever added up the number of times you've blowdried your hair? My total is currently around 14,000. If you are done with looking at your un-made-up face while going through overfamiliar hairdryer motions, what about revamping the whole experience by watching Jeremy Kyle while you're doing it. This Sarason mirror has a built-in TV... it's not only a joy, but sometimes it's the only way to get teenage sons to take a shower – yes, Charlie, I am talking about you. *£815 at sarasontv.co.uk*

SUPER-FAST HEATED ROLLERS

Rollers are those painful products my mum used to use and I vowed as a child never, ever to be that person. But then, you know, the floofy look came back and it's quite fun having them in for a while so you look like Holly Willoughby on her way to the make-up truck. But the big point is, they work. The O Ultimate Set from Cloud Nine is a lovely hatbox-style leatherette bucket case containing clever rollers that heat to 130 degrees in four seconds, but somehow don't burn your fingers. My mum would have loved them. *£159.95 at cloudninehair.com*

ROLLERS/BRUSH COMBO

If, however, you are dexterously challenged and can't make the heated things work – have a go with this. A roller brush you can turn and twirl while drying your hair – then click off the handle and leave the roller in your hair to set that section while you're doing the rest. Smart device and here is your gadget columnist's top tip: buy two sets – six brushes isn't enough unless you are Donald Trump, in which case WOW I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ARE READING MY COLUMN. (Actually Donald, I've seen your hair, I can believe it.) *£44.99 at click-n-curl.co.uk*

BEST STRAIGHTENERS

All hail GHD Platinum – the sleekest, most effective but protective irons available, with a plug which means that you can take them on holiday and they will work whatever the voltage. Now in a slightly different shape (tbh exactly the same). *£165 at ghdhair.com*

TWISTING TOOL

The Scünci Insta Twist is basically a party game. Can you twist together two strands of hair and press 'stop' in the one second that exists between making a groovy, festival-chic braid and creating the world's tangliest dreadlock? I can. (I can't.) *£30 at scunci.co.uk*

DOLL WITH HAIR THAT GROWS

Do you remember these? I never had one, dreamed of owning one, and now finally have my own. Lovingly yank down the locks of this Disney Tangled doll for Farrah 1975, squidge them back in for Twiggy 1966. No battery, just some shoving required. Is she a gadget? Who cares – I adore her. *£56 at coreshop.co.uk*

'Sometimes I get a cut so bad my guinea pig has better hair than me'

This is me on Twitter – @emmafreud

AVEDA

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PURE FLOWER AND PLANT ESSENCES

thicker, fuller looking hair is yours



REDUCE HAIR LOSS DUE TO BREAKAGE* with **invati**™ solutions for thinning hair

invati™ is 97% naturally derived** and taps the power of Ayurveda, the ancient renewing art of India, with densiplex.™ Exfoliate your scalp, thicken the look of your hair and activate† —with **invati**™.

Try invati™ 3-step system for FREE††—find a participating location at aveda.co.uk/tatler or call 0870 034 2380.

*74% of 94 women agreed they experienced less hair breakage after 8 weeks of using the invati™ system. **From plants, non-petroleum minerals or water. Learn more at aveda.co.uk.

†When massaged in. ††One invati™ trio sample per customer. While stocks last or until 30/11/15. Hair by Antoinette Beenders.

©Aveda Corp.

Mariella Tandy would like to make sure your hair is happy. Here goes...

THE IT LIST



Face value

If you thought you couldn't love the already much-loved **Josh Wood Atelier** in Holland Park any more passionately, then prepare to be shocked – it's about to happen. That's because it's now doing Sisley facials too, in the newly opened treatment room. Marvellous hair, marvellous skin. Just check in with your feelings – we were right, right? *joshwoodcolour.com*



BLACK ROSE CREAM MASK, £95.50, BY **SISLEY**



£12.99, BY **L'OREAL**

Grey hairs can spring up at any time – horror – except not, because a spritz of **L'Oreal**'s Hair Touch Up gets rid of them. Carry it in your handbag. *nevillehairandbeauty.net*

***Vidal Sassoon**'s Salonist at-home hair colour, £9.99, is terribly easy – you can sort your colour out yourself using its cunning two-step technique. Stubborn roots and ever-so-thirsty lengths are treated separately, so that you get depth and tone and stuff. Not flat, see? And no need to schlep to the salon. Immensely convenient. boots.com*



£15 PER DOSE, BY **KERASTASE**

Kérastase is on to something with its new Fusio-Dose. The five-minute treatment can be personalised to tackle all manner of hair crimes, from not enough shininess to colour that's faded away. And results last for up to five washes. We heart. *kerastase.co.uk*

*Newsflash! **BaByliss** Diamond Big Hair Dual, £60, makes hair bigger and shinier than EVER, thanks to its diamond-infused ceramic rotating brush heads. Thank you, diamonds. babyliss.co.uk*



£14.99, BY **PANTENE**

STAY STRONG

Yes, we know we shouldn't dye our hair or use hot tongs, but the fact remains that most of us do. Fortunately, **Pantene**'s Paltinia Hair Strengthening Primer can help undo the damage we've done to our miserable mops by strengthening the strands from the inside out. Clever. *boots.com*

GILD THE LILY

Tie it back or tart it up with something pretty



£320, AT **CHANEL.COM**

1

IT'S A HAIR ACCESSORY BY **CHANEL**. YOU COULD OWN ONE. FOR YOUR OWN ACTUAL HAIR. ANYONE ELSE SWEATING, OR JUST US?



£4.95, AT **HERSHESONS.COM**

2

HERSHESONS NO-KINK HAIR BANDS – DOES WHAT IT SAYS ON THE TIN.

3

BONPOINT HAIRPIECES – JOLLY UP THE BLANDEST OF BARNETS.



MIST OPPORTUNITY

Perfume for your hair? What a jolly good idea



£40, AT **HARRODS.COM**

1

SACHAJUAN PROTECTIVE HAIR PERFUME MOISTURISES, HAS BUILT-IN SPF *AND* REDUCES STATIC. WE KNOW!



£34, AT **DIOR.COM**

2

THIS **DIOR** HAIR MIST SMELLS DIVINE AND PROTECTS HAIR FROM POLLUTION TOO. GOOD TIMES.



£37, AT **SELFRIDGES.COM**

3

LEMON! JUNIPER BERRIES! MMM... GO WILD WITH **BYREDO**'S GYPSY WATER.

*We are already MASSIVE fans of Liberty. But now it's gone and made friends with chic cut-and-colour specialists **Taylor Taylor**, we heart it even more. liberty.co.uk*

*We weren't actually going to tell you. But here goes... **Drama Parlour** has just opened up on Cambridge Heath Road, E2. Go right now, before everyone else finds out and you can't get in any more. Sigh! From £65. dramaparlour.com*



*Bravo, **Braid Bar**! The festival favourite has a permanent home on Selfridges' ground floor. Pop in for French plaits, fishtails, halo braids or even pom poms and semi-permanent hair chalks. Now you can always look like you've just come back from Burning Man with Cara and Poppy D. From £10. thebraidbar.co.uk*

£12, BY **EYECANDY**



This **EyeCandy** Rainbow Volume S Brush = happy hair. No, really, sometimes it is just that simple. *victoriahealth.com*

Need anti-aged, UV-protected, argan-oil-shiny super hair? Well, look no further than this brand-spanking-new colour shampoo and conditioner by the lovely folk at **Carol Joy London**. *caroljoylondon.com*

£25 EACH, BY **CAROL JOY**



You know that beachy, bouncy, St Barths holiday hair? Yes, *that* hair. Well, with **Iluxe** Eternité Hair Mask and Millénaire Serum, you can have it. This stuff will give you locks that are *properly* detoxed. Which is more than can be said for the rest of you. *urbanrereat.co.uk*

£58, BY **ILUXE**



£44, BY **ILUXE**



Show off

Want Duchess of Cambridge hair? Of course you do. So here's how to get it: take yourself off to SHOW DRY, which has partnered up with hair-extension expert Hair Lingerie. Ask for major volume. You'll be a prince magnet for at least 12 months. From £615. *showdry.com*



Bumping into your ex

So you're more grown-up than you used to be, sexier too, almost certainly better in bed. But unavailable. This is hair that says 'I have outgrown you but I am still the most fun woman you will ever meet. Sorry about that.'

EMBROIDERED SILK DRESS, £8,530, BY VALENTINO. ROSE-GOLD & DIAMOND EAR CUFF, £2,750, BY BEE GODDESS, AT HARRODS

STYLE IT OUT

Dos for every occasion. Tear out and take to your hairdresser. Now

Styled by SOPHIE GOODWIN & FRANCESCA WHITE
Photographed by JOHN AKEHURST



Winter wedding

Who needs hats when you've got plaits? But not Heidi plaits. Edith Wharton plaits. And crucially: fat plaits. Which means hairpieces. Which means planning. Which means perfection.

BROCADE & VELVET DRESS, £797, BY **EMILIO DE LA MORENA**. GOLD & PEARL EARRING BACK, £300 FOR PAIR; GOLD & GARNET STUD EARRING, £950 FOR PAIR, BOTH BY **ANNOUSHKA**

First date

Here's the thing: men are competitive; they are interested in women who other men are interested in. So first-date hair needs to look umm... like someone has recently been very interested in you. Twice.

LACE DRESS, £1,795, BY **BURBERRY PRORSUM**. ROSE-GOLD & PINK-OPAL EARRING, £1,480 FOR PAIR, BY **CHAUMET**





Black tie and dancing

Yes, this looks tousled and kittenish. But it's rock solid. No moves will shift this sucker. No gale will tumble it. No drizzle will compromise it. The secret? Architecture: product, product and a bit more product.

SILK & TULLE JUMPSUIT, £1,850, BY **ALESSANDRA RICH**. GOLD, WASHED-STERLING, WHITE-TOPAZ, SANCERRE-FOIL & RESIN HAIRCOMB, £1,350, BY **LARKSPUR & HAWK**

‘Oh, this old thing’

‘I haven’t been to the hairdresser’ hair. Nobody need know that your hairdresser is a keeper of secrets, will slot you in at the last minute and can perfect this in 15 minutes flat.

WOOL-CREPE JUMPSUIT WITH SILK-SATIN LINING, £1,300, BY **EMILIA WICKSTEAD**. GINKGO-LACQUERED GOLD EARRING, £650 FOR PAIR, BY **AURELIE BIDERMANN**, AT **MATCHES FASHION.COM**

Power party

Classic is the new edgy. Maria Callas rather than Björk. Confident in its minimalism. Daring in its silhouette. Utterly irreproachable. The kind of hair you marry.

RAYON & ACETATE DRESS, £1,600, BY **ANTONIO BERARDI**. ROSE-GOLD & BLACK-DIAMOND EARRING, £10,400 FOR PAIR, BY **SUSAN FOSTER**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK IN MAIN MAGAZINE. WORDS BY ANNABEL RIVKIN. HAIR BY ZOE IRWIN FOR GHD. MAKE-UP BY ATTRACTA COURTNEY, USING CHANEL CHRISTMAS 2015 AND CHANEL BODY EXCELLENCE. NAILS BY AMI STREETS AT LMC WORLDWIDE, USING CHANEL CHRISTMAS 2015 AND CHANEL BODY EXCELLENCE HAND CREAM. MODEL, FREJA JEPPESEN AT PREMIER MODEL MANAGEMENT. PRODUCTION, ELLE KORHALILLER. FASHION ASSISTANT, POM OGILVY

AND THE AWARD Hangouts

BEST FOR WORKING
DryBy

With its original plastered walls, sleek Skandium armchairs and stripped wooden floors, DryBy sort of doesn't feel like a salon at all. So you can perch at the huge, marble-topped table with your laptop as your stylist works their magic; you can even hold a conversation with a colleague at the same time (chairs are opposite one another, with the thinnest sliver of mirrors in between). The opening hours (7am–9pm) blow most salons out of the water and they do a great medi-pedi. But best of all? It's fast. Because a blowdry doesn't need to take all day, y'know. *Blowdry, from £28. At 74 Mortimer Street, W1 (dryby.co.uk; 020 7637 9477).*

BEST FOR GIRL TIME
Duck & Dry

Squishy sofas, exposed brick walls, trendy hanging lights: Duck & Dry has all the appeal of a Manhattan blowdry bar (their treatments, from a quick tong to an Essie mani, are about *speed*), but it's cosier and unashamedly girlie. You'll come here, across the road from the Bluebird, because the blowdries are spot on: shiny, swingy, just the right amount of oomph (there's a brand-new product line about to launch, so you can keep up the good work at home). And you'll return, girlfriends in tow, for a pre-party updo and prosecco on tap (there's a PRESS juice bar for the more virtuous). *Blowdry, £28. At 335–337 King's Road, SW3 (duckanddry.com; 020 3489 9370).*



BEST FOR BRINGING YOUR BOYFRIEND
Barber & Parlour

Date night? Allow us to set the scene. Grab a cappuccino from the baristas on the ground floor before a mooch around the quirky 'store'. Now you and your date separate (just for a bit). You to Cheeky Hair by Josh Wood for a speedy blowdry and manicure. Him to Neville Barber for a wet shave and trim. You'll be reunited over slow-cooked brisket and a bottle of red at the Barber & Parlour Kitchen. Then it's downstairs to the Electric Cinema for a film and a fumble. And afterwards? Well, it is date night... *Women's blowdry, from £30. Men's Quick Tidy-Up, from £30. At 64–66 Redchurch Street, E2 (barberandparlour.com; 020 3376 1777).*

BEST FOR BEING OUTSIDE
RYS

Nestled among the glossy shops of Walton Street, RYS has a crack team of stylists and colourists, beauty therapists, manicurists, a reflexologist AND a smashing tea selection (12 varieties in total). But that's not all. Fancy going alfresco with the scissors? Head stylist Yilmaz will snip hair into something wonderful on the gorgeous little terrace that's out the back, which has its own bar and a whizzy glass roof that slides shut if the weather turns nasty. Clients have been known to settle in for their own champagne garden party. *Cut with Yilmaz, from £250. At 176 Walton Street, SW3 (ryshairandbeauty.com; 020 7100 0724).*

BEST FOR GETTING MERRY
The Drawing Room

A night out in east London? The Drawing Room, in the winding Spitalfields side streets, should be your first port of call. It's not a club, it's a salon – in a quirky Georgian townhouse, split over two floors with duck-egg blue walls, antique dressers and Poquito the chihuahua curled up in the corner. So you and your friends can run riot (not literally – this is a salon, remember) as fabulously talented creative director Oskar Pera tongs, twists and twiddles your hair into shape ready for the evening ahead. Owner James will even ply you with elderflower martinis from the in-house cocktail list. *Blowdry, from £25. At 41 Artillery Lane, E1 (drawingroomsalon.com; 020 7247 6083).*

BEST FOR WALLOWING
Lulu Blonde

Maria Sharapova and the entire Federer brood come here for cuts during the tennis (it's not just for blondes, but they know a thing or two about them). For such a huge salon, it's got a great local following: all the well groomed of Wimbledon can be found here. Owner Sharon is a dab hand at colour; a blowdry bar has opened at the back; and there's a pretty little day spa squirrelled away downstairs, offering everything from spray tans to antenatal massages, if you fancy making a day of it. Which we fully advise. *Cut, from £75. At 20 Ridgeway, SW19 (lulublonde.com; 020 8947 2469).*

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALAMY; KEYSTONE/GETTY IMAGES

GOES TO... Cuts

You think our hair looks good? That is because we have tried virtually every hairdresser, colourist and blowdry in town in a mission to discover the very best places and people. Just for you

BEST FOR A BOB **George Northwood**

Northwood's salon, and Pureology flagship, is a wondrous place. There's George (a wizard scissor-wielder, he does the choppy 'Alexa' bob); then there's the space, with its knick-knacks and ace flapjacks, (George's mother bakes them). But it has a trick up its sleeve: Roi Nadin. Northwood's second-in-command cuts like a couturier with a sheet of cloth, gauging the strength and bias of your hair, so it falls seamlessly into shape. Tip-top with a sprinkle of stars. *Cut with Roi, £225. At 24 Wells Street, W1 (georgenorthwood.com; 020 7580 8195).*

BEST FOR AN OVERHAUL **Tailored by No5**

Picture this: a basement flat in Hackney, which you're only given the address for once you've booked. So far, so intriguing. Once inside, you'll find copper piping, a fridge full of prosecco and a Shar Pei called Wolfgang. There's no backwash because Lee Crichton – the cool, calm founder – believes that hair should be cut in its natural state. There's no clock-watching either (Lee will dedicate a day to you if needs be). And there's just one chair. So you won't be shouting over the dryers, you won't be asked to 'take a seat' and you won't have to fight for Lee's attention. Because it's just you and him. And Wolfgang. *Cut, from £100 (tailoredbyno5.com; book@tailoredbyno5.com).*

BEST FOR SOMETHING MANAGEABLE **Rossano Ferretti**

This is not simply a hairdresser. This is a philosophy. The Italian maestro's team cuts hair in a very different, quite thrilling way (ask for Allesandro, a total dream). Here, they slice vertically not horizontally, following the flow of the hair, shimmying around your head in a flurry of snips. It is mesmerising to watch – and the result? Bouncy, natural movement like you've not seen in years. He'll explain how to style it at home: a quick finger-dry, a 20-second (we kid you not) blast of the hairdryer, just on the front, and – hey presto! – you'll look like you've just had a blowdry, with zero effort. We're converts for life. *Cut, with Alessandro, £250. At 21 Arlington Street, W1 (rossanoferretti.com; 020 7493 0555).*

BEST FOR CURLS **Aveda Institute**

Where we see frizz, Aveda's 'textured hair specialists' see opportunity. Their skills lie in asking questions and listening to the answers, which helps them to cut in a way that both challenges and comforts those in a tie-it-back-and-forget-about-it rut. They're phasing out treatments in favour of good products and good advice (dry hair with a T-shirt rather than a towel; damp – not sopping-wet – hair helps products to work harder; twist it into four sections and blowdry for loose waves), leaving you excited about your own hair rather than just your next appointment. *Cut with Subrina, from £76. At 174 High Holborn, WC1 (avedainstitute.co.uk; 020 7759 7355).*

BEST FOR FEELING FASHIONY **Windle & Moodie**

Windle & Moodie is surprisingly low-key (chequerboard flooring, framed prints on the walls, well-thumbed coffee-table books). Yes, they excel at colour, but it's their forward-thinking cutting that keeps bottoms on the leather seats, 27 years later. Paul Windle's the steady hand who delivers to-the-millimetre styles that make runway looks wearable, while Neil Moodie racks up more air miles than a BA hostess, coiffing big names around the world. Georgia-May and Cara go. And we like their hair. *Cut, from £45. At 41–45 Shorts Gardens, WC2 (windleandmoodie.com; 020 7497 2393).*

BEST FOR ELEVENTH HOUR **Percy & Reed**

The Percy & Reed flagship has had more than a lick of paint of late – now it's all exposed bulbs and shiny black walls. What's *not* changed is the service, which is as slick as a whistle. Left that trim to the last minute? Their 'squeeze me in' app does just that, so you can book in up to 30 minutes before your appointment. Ask for the L'Oréal Pro Fiber treatment at the backwash, which keeps hair in good nick til the next time you're in the chair. *Cut, from £48. At 157c Great Portland Street, W1 (percyandreed.com; 020 7637 4634).*

BEST FOR SUBURBAN POLISH **Pelo**

Owner James Lobjoit has a serious clientele – TV folk and the like – but because he's dedicated to his friendly Barnes salon, what he excels at is 'off-duty' hair: less stiff, more swish; easy, breezy styles that are as happy gambolling on the common with the dogs as they are rough-and-tumbling with the sprogs. A cut above what you normally find this side of the river. *Cut, from £45. At 49 White Hart Lane, SW13 (no website; 020 8876 1091).*

BEST FOR A BIT OF AN EDGE **Radio**

Radio makes a great first impression – trendy but in a *safe* way. The same goes for its cuts. Stylists are fab at making hair instantly cooler, but they'll humour you as you agonise over how many inches to trim. They won't tut if you opt not to lob it all off. Nor laugh if you ask to be transformed into Sienna Miller. They're as polite about detangling a matted mane as they are about your hangover. Gold-star-worthy. *Cut, from £50. At 74 Broadway Market, E8 (radiohairsalon.com; 020 3417 6411).*



Colour

BEST FOR SLIMMING **Charles Worthington**

We know all about make-up contouring and its ability to whip up razor-sharp cheekbones, but now Charles Worthington brings us hair contouring. A novelty? Maybe. Does it actually work? Yes. Art director Marc Trinder is the go-to guy for subtle highlighting that slims and shapes the face. First there's a 'face fitting', to decide which sections of hair to colour. Now don't get upset if you don't have the desired oval shape, or if you think you're a heart but are actually a square. Just trust that Marc's flattering hand will leave you liking your face more than ever – even after three hours of staring at it in the mirror. *Colour contouring, from £75. At 28 Great Queen Street, WC2 (charlesworthingtonsalons.com; 020 7831 5303).*

BEST FOR NOVICES **Seed**

Some salons are intimidating, but Seed, with prices that won't make your eyes water and antlers on the walls, isn't one of them. Reassuringly, regulars all have something in common: natural, healthy-looking, even-your-own-mother-wouldn't-guess-it-wasn't-your-own colour. So, hair-dye virgins, be brave: trust your colourist because not only will they comb, section and paint with gusto, but the end result will fill you with uncontainable joy and confidence. As will that free glass of fizz that they hand you upon arrival. There are further outposts in Kensington and Clapham. *Half-head highlights, £62. At 789 Fulham Road, SW6 (seedsalon.co.uk; 020 7731 5744).*

BEST FOR BALAYAGE **77**

There's a bit of a French thing going on over at 77, which looks like the sort of hip, uncluttered Parisian apartment you'd find in the Marais – music streamed from South of France radio stations and an excellent wine list add to the feel. Founder and owner Loic (expect an accent that'll make you weak at the knees) is full of techniques learnt in his native Marseilles, and his signature balayage will leave your hair looking not streaky, not stripy, but lighter and brighter – sort of like it's just been on a nice jaunt to St Tropez. His advice? 'If your colour looks expensive, the rest of you will follow.' *Half-head balayage, from £110. At 77 Westbourne Park Road, W2 (77hairsalon.com; 020 7221 6794).*

BEST FOR BLONDES **Lockonego**

You know those wispy bits? The ones around your hairline, those baby hairs that tend to get forgotten about in the excitement of T-bars, half-heads and the like? Well, fine and flimsy and free-spirited as they may be, they are also key to prolonging that glorious, glowing, post-holiday halo of bright blonde. Devised by colourist, stylist and all-round hair whizz Sophie Grant, the hairline lift gently lightens these tendrils by a couple of shades to frame your face with a pretty golden haze. It's brilliant news for those held hostage to highlights, or very useful for simply eking out your colour in between more in-depth appointments (a blessed relief for those who know the trials of having to spend hours rattling with foils). *Hairline lift, from £30. At 394 King's Road, SW10 (lockonego.com; 020 7795 1798).*

BEST FOR A NEW YOU (SORT OF) **Bleach**

They heart colour, here at Bleach's new Berwick Street salon. Which means they'll happily dip-dye your ends – but as you catch their eyes in the mirror, they're itching to ask if you want to try something a bit edgier. You don't have to go all out with a jet-black undercut, red tips and a triangular fringe (something that has actually been requested). It needn't be permanent either (try a soft pastel rinse, which will fade over the course of the week). Either way, because the colourists are cooler than you, they'll convince you. *Colour, from £55. At 2 Berwick Street, W1 (bleachlondon.co.uk; 020 7734 9009).*

BEST FOR DAMAGE CONTROL **Glasshouse Salon**

Fancy a change, something head-turning, but reluctant to put your hair through the mill (again)? Then pay a visit to Glasshouse Salon. Because here, in a clean, unfussy space with bubblegum-pink lamps and issues of *Kinfolk* on scrubbed wooden tables, salon director Olivia is taking a slightly different tack. Not only are her Organic Colour Systems dyes gentle and delicious-smelling (as well as free of resorcinol and ammonia), but they also turn your boring, mousy hair into something altogether more exciting. Just like that. *Full-head lightening, from £60. At Netil House, 1 Westgate Street, E8 (glasshousesalon.co.uk; 020 3095 9783).*

BEST FOR BRUNETTES **Jo Hansford**

They're known for their colouring here, and rightly so. Overzealous they are not: there's a one-on-one consultation, a bit of tentative testing and some very clever craft. Like creative colour director Jacyln Smith's new Low Beam technique: illuminating, face-framing highlights that warm up pale winter skin. Feeling frisky? She might suggest the High Beam: a solid block of contrasting colour at the front of the face. Get her to whack on their new Split End Solution while you're at it. It coats the unhealthy ends of your hair in keratin, leaving the top half bouncy and untouched, the bottom half nourished and thicker. Ingenious. *Low Beam and High Beam, from £155 each; Split End Solution, £150. At 48 South Audley Street, W1 (johansford.com; 020 7495 7774).*

BEST FOR TOUCH-UPS **Hari's**

Hari's specialises in highlights for people who just don't have the patience for highlights. The newly launched T-bar is a quick-fix optical illusion; a blast of summer tint on the most visible areas of your hair – the central parting and a sweep around your face. Which means a delicately balanced combination of high and lowlights, bright enough to cheer hair up between the full-head appointments, but considered enough that it shouts 'just back from Mykonos', not 'just back from the salon'. Throw in an Olaplex treatment – a combination of almond and aloe oils, plus vitamins C and A, that does its damned best to make the colouring process as kind as possible – and you can be in and out in just over an hour. *T-Bar Root Refresh, from £70; Olaplex, from £45. At 233 King's Road, SW3 (harissalon.com; 020 7349 8722).*

At home

BEST FOR CUTS Tarik Bennafla

Sometimes you don't want the roaring dryers of the average salon. In which case, Tarik is your man. He'll arrive at your house on his Vespa, set up in your bathroom, your bedroom or wherever the light is best, and get busy with his Japanese blades. He trained under the super-stylist Massato, and his results are miraculous: a cut that perfectly frames your face; straggly ends all removed. You can slope back to the sofa afterwards, although you should probably take your new do out for a spin. *Cut, from £70 (tarikbennafla.com; no phone).*

BEST FOR BLOWDRIES City Swish

Book in with the lovely Rebecca from mobile beauty company City Swish and she'll turn up armed with a hairdryer, rollers, tongs, all sorts of brushes, numerous products and – most importantly – a HUGE smile. Service is impressively quick, and you can pad about in your slippers, eat a piece of toast and do your make-up at the same time – or Rebecca can do it for you afterwards. It's so easy, so straightforward and so reasonably priced that you'll want to set up a standing appointment. *Blowdry, from £36 (cityswish.com; 020 3318 8234).*

BEST FOR CONDITIONING Mathieu Clabaux

Having Mathieu in your home is an alien experience. Not only because he is French and impossibly handsome but because, all of a sudden, this man in a leather jacket – who operates between London, Paris and LA – knows his way around your place better than you do. In the bat of an eye, he's washing your hair over the edge of the tub, and he's coaxed it back from the brink with his Le Smoothing Express keratin treatment (making it silkier than you'd ever thought possible). He's sussed out where to plug in his tongs and he's stationed you in a chair for the killer blowdry that follows. And then he's off again. *Treatment and blowdry, from £250 (mathieuclabaux.com; 07922 571532).*



PHOTOGRAPH: POTTER/EXPRESS/GETTY

Men

BEST FOR STUCK IN A RUT Murdock

There are barbers, and then there are barbers who *actually know what they are doing.* Who look at you and say, 'This is what you need.' Welcome to Murdock, the gentleman's grooming parlour now at seven sites across London. For oak-panelled splendour, there's the Liberty branch, where head barber Craig Evans will charm you with his gentle manner, then make you look smarter than you ever have before. Head to their outposts inside Hackett (at Sloane Square, Covent Garden or Spitalfields) for a cut that's as a sharp as the suits hanging on the rails. Or mosey on down to the newest, and biggest, space on Brewer Street, which looks like it's straight out of *Mad Men*: slick and geometric, with a very tempting bar. *Cut, from £45. Across London (murdocklondon.com; 020 3393 7946).*

BEST FOR KICKING BACK The King's Canary

Owners Stanley and Gavin know how to throw a party. (Seriously. Ask them about the art exhibitions that spiral into all-night lock-ins.) Luckily for them, this place is all white so it's easy to repaint, and regulars seem to like the fact that they can help themselves to a cold beer from the fridge. But the other reason chaps love this Fitzrovia local? It makes haircutting simple. For 20 quid they'll trim the back and sides, and chop the tiniest bit of weight out of the top – while still fading hair nicely at the collar. It's all in the details, you see (even when there's not much hair to work with). *Men's cut and style, from £20. At 81 Great Titchfield Street, W1 (thekingscanary.com; 020 7637 7322).*

BEST FOR TRADITIONALISTS Pankhurst

With its smart black façade and red-leather chairs, Pankhurst is the real deal. And its barbers tart a chap up with a minimum of fuss and a maximum of educated effort. Yes, a basic cut gets grand results without beating around the bush, but the old-fashioned wet shave is truly transformative. The hot towel takes 10 minutes to heat, the shaving cream gives you back the skin you had when you were a baby, the razor flicks the fuzz away bristle by bristle and the near-cryogenic cooling gel brings you back down to earth with a bump that'll make you want to sing 'Oh what a beautiful morning' as you click your heels out on to the street. *Haircut and classic shave, £80. At 10 Newburgh Street, W1 (pankhurstlondon.com; 020 7287 9955).*

BEST FOR SOMETHING SNAZZY Barber Streisand

This Exmouth Market favourite does a roaring trade in modern men's cuts: everything from a short back and sides to a proper Paul Weller mullet. Shaving and trimming and tidy-ups too. The walls are covered in vintage postcards, the tiles are straight out of a Portuguese film set – but it doesn't dress itself up as anything other than a proper barbershop. Which means they don't take bookings. So pitch up (lunchtimes and evenings – they're open till 8pm – are busiest), take a seat on the wooden bench outside and wait your turn. *Standard cut, £26. At 45 Exmouth Market, EC1 (barberstreisand.com; no phone).*

Full works

BEST FOR FEELING SWISH **Daniel Galvin**

As if Daniel Galvin wasn't already flying high (Europe's largest salon is still going strong over on George Street), there's a new space for west Londoners: an 18-chair salon in a former upholstery shop on Abingdon Road. Headed up by son James (daughter Louise pops in to do colour when she's not in Ibiza), it's smart as a pin – all Italian brown marble, high ceilings and swivelling mirrors. Thrillingly, your cut, colour and blowdry all take place on the same floor, so there's no running around with a soggy towel on your head either. A whopping 3,000-square-foot space is scheduled to open in Selfridges too, with a private room and a Hemsley + Hemsley menu. Get in line. *Cut and blowdry with James, £250. At 67 Abingdon Road, W8 (danielgalvin.com; 020 3544 6535).*

BEST FOR REFUELLING **Four**

These ladies (four colourists) have thought of everything. There's a friendly text reminder (friendly is a theme – coming here is like hanging out with your friends). Charlie finds the right hair colour for your skin tone (and gets your brows to match), swishy hair emerges from Sonia's scissors and green juices and sandwiches appear on cue. There's a Braid Bar, a Wave Bar, and you can get a facial or a wax. Clear an afternoon. *Tint with Charlie, from £120. At 62 Conduit Street, W1 (four london.com; 020 7297 9600).*

BEST FOR TOP TO TOE **Nyumba**

Nyumba looks like a safari on acid (jungle-like plants, seashells swinging in the window). But there's nothing this salon can't do. Brow tattooing with Liana, manis and pedis with Sanita, threading with Deepa, facials with Nel in the private basement... You could probably get an emergency bypass if you tipped enough. Silliness aside, they take hair seriously. Balayage? Yep. Extensions? Of course. Hairpiece for a do? They'll track one down. And you can order a strong cappuccino on the side. Because it's the little things that count. *Cut, from £65. At 1 Sloane Square, SW3 (nyumba salon.com; 020 7408 1489).*

BEST FOR LOCALS **Belli Fuori**

Belli Fuori is as Italian as they come: Italian products, Italian staff and rails of vintage Italian fashion to browse at the front of the salon. Owner Giovanna studied make-up at Central Saint Martins, but prefers a chinwag to fashion shoots. Regulars are welcomed with two kisses on each cheek; threads of former conversations are resumed as hair is sliced into at speed. There's a beauty room out back for facials, waxing, even lymphatic drainage – with the comfiest bed you've ever laid on. *Cut and blowdry, £35. At 44 Chatsworth Road, E5 (bellifuori.co; 020 3417 0600).*

BEST FOR TRANSFORMING **Urban Retreat**

Urban Retreat is VAST, with rooms for Crème de la Mer facials, medical-grade body treatments, piercing... there's even a hammam. Before you get sidetracked, ask for directions to the Salon Privé: here, stylists will listen to your hair woes and then, with nifty cutting or freehand highlights (without foils), will have you looking like a Victoria's Secret model (colourist Josh Rees Hole's words, not ours) in a jiffy. *Freehand highlights, from £100. At Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (urban retreat.co.uk; 020 7893 8333).*



PHOTOGRAPH: MARK SHAW/CAMERA PRESS

BEST FOR ZONING OUT **Daniel Hersheson**

This place might be the size of a spaceship (two floors and then some, with strokeably smooth stone walls), and it might be home to some of the best names in the business (like colour director Sibi Bolan and creative director Luke Hersheson), but don't be fooled. Because the dimly lit backwash room (like a first-class cabin, with its near-horizontal massaging beds) is the most zen place in all of London, and the pedi station (with its iPads and super-wide chairs) makes doing your emails less of a chore. And because stylists (like Grace and Louis) not only do blowdries at breakneck speed, but – if you're feeling quiet – they do them in silence. The only downside? You have to go home, eventually. *Blowdry with Grace, £45. At 45 Conduit Street, W1 (hershesons.com; 020 7434 1747).*

BEST FOR BEING SOCIABLE **Neville Hair & Beauty**

This Pont Street institution runs like clockwork: downstairs there is balayage and the new 'sombre' with colour guru Suniz (because, really, no one wants to be spotted in public with a load of foils on their head); one floor up, it's all big, bouffy blowdries a-go-go (see Reece for a do that lasts *five whole days*); at the very top you'll find a team of girls administering plenty of glossy manicures and pedicures, as well as rooms for waxing treatments and age-defying facials. But the reason that the salon is heaving right from the moment the doors swing open is that it feels like one big party. Owners Neville and Elena are genuinely pleased to see you; you'll probably spot several people you know under the dryers. Whiling away the day has never been so easy. *Five-day blowdry with Reece, £45. At 5 Pont Street, SW1 (nevillehairandbeauty.net; 020 7235 3654).*

Blowdries

BEST FOR POST-GYM Clo & Flo

You know when you've been to the gym, your hair is sweaty, and you're desperate for something to chomp on before you succumb to a sandwich? Well, not only do sisters Chloe and Florence Bellas do a winning Upper East Side-style blowdry from their salon on the Old Brompton Road (a hop, skip and a jump from the South Kensington Club – they also manage the club's private, in-house salon), but they'll ply you with smoothies and salad boxes from swanky local gym Lomax while they're at it. Pushed for time? They'll come and do your hair *at* Lomax. These are girls who know the importance of good coiffure. *Blowdry, from £25. At 55 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (cloandflo.com; 020 7581 3831).*

BEST FOR EFFICIENCY Blow Ltd

This is a salon that doesn't know the meaning of the word dawdle. Apt, then, that the newest branch of Blow Ltd's slick, 'fast-beauty' concept is in Canary Wharf (the original is still buzzing over in Covent Garden). The girls here LOVE to multitask: pre-meeting, (their busiest time is 7am on a weekday), your hair will be blowdried super fast, and your nails polished quicker than you can scroll through magazine pages on the iPads they provide. They'll even do your make-up while you watch step-by-step beauty tutorials on flatscreen TVs. Well, you may as well be learning something at the same time. *Blowdry, from £30. At Jubilee Place, Canary Wharf, E14 (blowltd.com; 020 7183 4950).*

BEST FOR RESUSCITATING Paul Edmonds

Is your hair unhappy? Drier than the Sahara, limp, forlornly frizzy? Then stop what you are doing immediately and march it on over to Paul Edmonds. Here, in a sexy, ebony-walled townhouse, your stylist will take a long look at your hair before whisking you to the backwash, where they'll smother it with a life-giving potion (actually a Kérastase or Shu Uemura conditioning treatment, but the results are pretty magical). They'll tell you how to look after it better yourself – regular masks are the trick – before blowdrying it into a perkier, healthier version of its former self. *Blowdry, from £30. At 217 Brompton Road, SW3 (pauledmonds.com; 020 7589 5958).*

BEST FOR ALL SINGING, ALL DANCING Showdry

Blackout curtains, glints of gold, pale-pink roses on every surface: Tamara Ecclestone's blowdry bar has come up trumps. For here is a salon that deserves a standing ovation for its opening hours alone (7am to 9pm). When it comes to your hair, they'll tease it, tong it, straighten it or tousle it (products are so lightweight you'll barely know they've used any), and if you've a small child in hand, they'll do them a mini-blow too, for free. They'll even nip to Daylesford to get you your lunch. So not only is Showdry the most glamorous thing to happen to Westbourne Grove in yonks, but it's also the most happy-making. *Signature Blowdry, £35. At 173 Westbourne Grove, W11 (showdry.com; 0333 006 8888).*

BEST FOR WEEKENDS John Frieda

Nothing strikes fear into your heart quite like that moment a stylist spins your chair round with a 'ta-da!' – and you're confronted with a stiff, over-lacquered helmet of hair in the mirror, masquerading as a blowdry. But this can be avoided if you come to John Frieda, where they're championing the Low Blow. Think of it as day-two hair: a natural, undone, 'I've not stepped foot near a salon' sort of look. It's not too big, not too polished: this is hair that says, 'I am incredibly low-maintenance.' (No one need know it took 45 minutes to do.) *Low Blow, from £30. At 4 Aldford Street, W1 (johnfrieda.co.uk; 020 7491 0840).*

BEST FOR EARLY BIRDS Hare & Bone

Session-stylist Sam Burnett's salon opened its doors less than a year ago, but it's bustling with locals and out-of-towners alike, especially in the mornings. That's because you can kick back in the industrial-feel space among swathes of smoked glass, with a flat white and a cinnamon swirl from the Attendant, a local coffee shop, clasped in your sticky hand, while stylist Esther washes, dries and barrel-brushes hair in gloriously quick time. Breakfast and a blowdry in 30 minutes? You know it makes sense. *Blowdry, from £25. At 69 Great Titchfield Street, W1 (hareandbone.co.uk; 020 7401 2413).*

BEST FOR A BIT OF A DO Aer

The best thing about Aer is how *easy* they make having your hair done. Want it all put up, but not sure how? Bucolic, volume at the top, but non-swingy at the ends? Not curly, but a hint of a kink? Fortunately, stylists can decipher whatever jumble of words you come out with, and they will whip up a style that fits the bill too. (There's an iPad with a menu of blowdries and updos if words fail you altogether.) Doors are open every day, even Sundays, and from as early as 7.30am on weekdays. They even welcome walk-ins. You know, just in case. *Blowdry, £35. At 172 Old Brompton Road, SW5 (aerblowdrybar.com; 020 7244 9499).*

BEST FOR POLISH Hairspace

Make no mistake, the blowdries here at Hairspace, a stone's throw from Kensington Palace, really are magnificent. As well as Kérastase and Balmain, they use their own line of argan oil-based products, which give unprecedented amounts of shine. Husbands, children, even well-behaved dogs are welcome – although the grooming is strictly for humans. Happily, Lupo already has an enviably glossy coat. *Blowdry, from £29. At 55 Kensington Church Street, W8 (hairspacelondon.com; 0207 937 2150).*

BEST FOR FINE HAIR Headmasters

You might not like the thought of having to do your own blowdry at the salon, but stylists here will have you handling the hairdryer in no time – with voluminous results. Tips include how to use a round brush effectively, when is the right time to apply the blast of hot air (your hair should be 80 per cent dry), and how to angle the nozzle to put maximum bouff in your barnet. Extra help comes from products like Nioxin thickening gel. For the final touch, they suggest whooshing cool air through, to keep the shape full. *Fine hair blowdry, from £30. Nationwide (headmasters.com).*

Local heroes

BEST FOR THE MIDLANDS
NashWhite

NashWhite looks like the flat your trendiest friend would live in: exposed brickwork, copper finishes and lampshades that might have been stolen from an 87-year-old grandmother. And yet it works. Plus, owners Lee and Rob are really rather good at dealing with the unruly stuff on your head (cutting it, blowdrying it, putting it up). Their philosophy is that great hair is groomed, but not perfect. A little bit like the salon itself. *Cut, from £27. At 8 High Street, Warwick (nashwhite.co.uk; 01926 409586).*

BEST FOR SOMERSET
Number Three

Chances are that you'll mistake this airy Georgian townhouse for one of Bath's numerous galleries (mirrors propped upon easels, oil-splattered canvases hanging on walls). It's not, but owners Kelly and Francesca are bringing some proper artistry to hairdressing. Cuts are just the right side of edgy and, when it comes to colour, they'll do the usual highlights and lowlights, but also jauntier things like turning your hair a pale pink – and giving you an Essie mani to match. *Half-head highlights, from £62. At 3 Saville Row, Bath (numberthreebath.com; 01225 443222).*

BEST FOR NORFOLK
Six Apple Yard at Creake Abbey

The ruins of 13th-century Creake Abbey are not only home to a café (come for excellent Victoria sponge and regular art exhibitions), a smokehouse, children's tractor rides and a seriously good farmers' market – but they also house Six Apple Yard, a wooden-beamed, stone-walled Aveda salon with jolly friendly staff. It's small – only four chairs – but owner Sam is a pro at cutting hair so that it's quicker, easier and more exciting to style back at home. Which is what we all want, really. *Cut with Sam, from £45. At Creake Abbey, Fakenham (sixappleyardcreake.co.uk; 01328 730912).*



BEST FOR THE COTSWOLDS
Simon Smith

It's only been here a year or so, but Simon Smith already feels like part of the furniture. Expect hard-working hair products (decent ones, like Philip Kingsley) displayed on rustic crates, huge gilt mirrors and Simon, who does the sort of blowdry normally only found in smart London salons (well, he used to head up the team at Trevor Sorbie in Hampstead). Locals love him, as do their weekend visitors. The downside? His waiting list is getting longer by the minute. *Cut and blowdry with Simon, from £65. At 35a West Street, Chipping Norton (simonsmithuk.com; 01608 647007).*

BEST FOR DEVON
Tangles

Owner Charlotte is the driving force behind Braunton's favourite high-street salon, which jostles for space with surf and fish 'n' chip shops alike (the crowd here is distinctly blonde and sea-salt-spray-tousled). Charlotte cuts and colours hair in a way that's utterly instinctive, taking your face shape, colouring and even personality into account. But, because she's an all-rounder, she also does some very nice wedding styles, like dishevelled chignons and low-slung buns. The results? Fabulously non-fussy and natural – like your own hair, but better. *Cut with Charlotte, from £30. At 4 Caen Street, Braunton (no website; 01271 813035).*

BEST FOR SUSSEX
The Rye Retreat

With its brightly coloured window boxes and whitewashed walls, the Rye Retreat looks charmingly local, but things inside run like a well-oiled machine. Regulars are to be found rustling with rows of foils and gossiping at the colour bar; Londoners, down for the weekend, nip in for excellent head massages and blowdries (ones that'll stand up to the fierce coastal winds – crucial). Squeeze in a stint at the spa if you've got time – they do a cracking Swedish massage. There's also a gorgeous little garden out the back for snoozing in the sun. *Cut, from £25. At 36–38 Cinque Ports Street, Rye (theryeretreat.co.uk; 01797 222211).*

BEST FOR WILTSHIRE
Melanie Giles

This is the third in the Melanie Giles portfolio – there's one in Bath, Frome and now Bradford on Avon. But there are two things that make the last that little bit more exciting: number one, not only can you get your hair and nails done, there's also a smart in-salon café. Their specialty? Croissants. They're mad for them. Number two, there's a purpose-built shingled 'church' within the salon for bridal parties. Combine the two, and that's the morning of your big day sorted. You're welcome. *Bridal hair, from £65. At 25 Silver Street, Bradford on Avon (melanie-giles.co.uk; 01225 866062).* □

PHOTOGRAPH: CAMERA PRESS/MPTV


DANIEL GALVIN, OBE

HAIR HISTORY

Daniel Galvin is part of an iconic hairdressing family that dates all the way back to the 1800s. Though the trends have certainly changed in this time, the essence of beautiful hair – healthy, glossy, luxurious – remains a constant. This is Daniel Galvin's focus, expensive looking hair.

A good mane is the ultimate accessory; a woman wears it day-in, day-out. It needs to be showstopping. Daniel Galvin revolutionised the colour industry, lifting it from merely covering grey to something truly artistic.

This is the hairdresser that ensured London's swinging 60s were full of swinging, colourful locks. He pioneered 'Crazy Colour', herbal colour and the brickwork highlighting technique and has worked with a plethora of high-profile people including Princess Diana, Twiggy and Madonna.

These achievements were recognised when he was awarded an OBE in 2006 for his contribution to the industry. Following in this hair tradition, his son James and daughter Louise are now heading up the new Daniel Galvin salon in Kensington.


JAMES GALVIN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR


'Hair colour is my absolute passion and I count myself so lucky that I have a job that allows me to be an ambassador for something I love'
DANIEL GALVIN

GALVINISE

Daniel Galvin welcomes another salon into the fold – a wonderful new addition. We chart the chops and changes of an icon

DANIEL GALVIN, MARYLEBONE

The flagship Daniel Galvin salon, slap-bang in the middle of London's fashionable Marylebone, is sophistication incarnate. It is the largest hair salon in Europe; a whopping 9,000 square feet of sleek, minimalist design. Yes, really. And, of course, the salon boasts some of the top colourists and stylists in the business. It is here that Daniel Galvin works to transform tresses. He has been hairdressing for more than half a century now, so rest assured, you're in safe hands. All the team at Daniel Galvin, regardless of previous experience, are trained again to the high Daniel Galvin standard, resulting in a team that is singular in its goals and efficiency. From colouring and cutting to styling and conditioning, this is *the* place to go for expensive-looking hair. The salon also offers a whole host of beauty treatments such as manicures, pedicures and shellac, so you can emerge glamorous from top to toe.


LOUISE GALVIN, COLOUR DIRECTOR

DANIEL GALVIN, KENSINGTON

This is an exciting new chapter in the Daniel Galvin legacy. Introducing Daniel Galvin Kensington, the brand-spanking new salon headed up by brother and sister duo, James Galvin and Louise Galvin. Both share their father's passion for hair and an unwavering dedication to professional excellence. James is a dab hand with a pair of scissors and divides his time heading up the styling departments at both salons. Louise is famed for her colouring skills (she's particularly good with brunettes, achieving a spot-on tone). Pop into this salon for a bespoke, elegant service.



For more information, please visit, danielgalvin.com
58-60 George Street, Marylebone, W1. Tel: 020 7486 9661. Kensington salon, 67 Abingdon Road, W8. Tel: 0203 544 6535.

COLOUR, TEJ HAIR, JAMES GALVIN



Treatments

SALON SECRETS

The best beauty in the biz

THE MASSEUSE

Who **Ross Koseva**

The lowdown A sizeable Bulgarian who works from Hari's in Parsons Green, Ross has near-superhuman strength and hands the size of dinner plates. He uses these qualities to zero in on the knots in your neck or the stiffness in your shoulders – anything really. But that's not the best bit. No, the BEST bit is that you don't have to book. You don't have to tiptoe into a quiet room and take off your clothes and seethe in silence that your blowdry is getting flattened as you lie on your back. Ross massages you *while* your hair is being done – from your chair, or from a special one downstairs, with a little hole for your face.

Our verdict Bruise-worthy but brilliant. Ten minutes, and even the blackest of moods are quashed.

Details From £15 for 15 minutes. At Hari's, 183 New Kings Road, SW6 (harissalon.com; 020 7731 6062).

THE REFLEXOLOGIST

PICK ME!

Who **Paolo Lai**

The lowdown Neville might be a hive of activity, but the downstairs treatment room is not. Here, you'll find chunks of amethyst, ecclesiastical music and Paolo, who's doing some rather wonderful facial reflexology. Like the soles of the feet, the face also has a 'map' of points relating to systems in the body. And Paolo reads it beautifully, his fingertips dancing across your contours: tracing figures of eight, pulsing lightly or pausing at the top of the forehead. The latter is linked to your pineal gland, and Paolo claims that pressing here stimulates the brain. He'll trigger another point – a signal fires down the neural pathway, linking the two and, apparently, sparking a 'conversation', rebalancing and shifting blockages.

Our verdict You'll leave ready to face the day. But after subsequent sessions, you'll be poised to take on the world.

Details £90 for 60 minutes. At Neville Hair & Beauty, 5 Pont Street, SW1 (nevillehairandbeauty.net; 020 7235 3654).

THE MAKE-UP ARTIST

Who **Marina Sandoval**

The lowdown Perky, Colombian Marina is best known for doing the Duchess of Cambridge's nails, but she's *also* rather genius at make-up. Pots of Chanel and Guerlain glint in a carry case the size of a small house, which she trots about with (she'll come to you on her scooter; otherwise she'll station you in one of those film set-style chairs in the Nicky Clarke salon). Before you know it, she's evened out your skin tone and coloured in your dark circles, made your eyes look bigger and given you cheekbones where before you had none. She's plucked and outlined, she's highlighted and strobe-creamed, and she chirrups away animatedly as she goes (great for any pre-event jitters).

Our verdict Deft, confident and full of tips so you can recreate the magic back at home, Marina makes you look like *you* – but better.

Details From £65 for 35 minutes. At Nicky Clarke, 11 Carlos Place, W1 (nickyclarke.com; 020 7491 4700).

THE NAIL TECHNICIAN

Who **Maria Shirashi**

The lowdown Japanese beautician Maria has been at Daniel Hersheson for 17 years. She's tried to leave twice, but they keep luring her back. Why? Because her manicures never chip. Ever. And she can turn a pedicure around in 20 minutes – though she'll pretend to be cross if you make her, chivvying you frantically into your chair like a mother hen when you turn up late. If you can't get Maria (her loyal clients have weekly standing appointments), Gabriele is also brilliant.

Our verdict Women love Maria because she's a perfectionist and always cheerful; men love Maria because she does a mean foot massage. And we love Maria because she consistently delivers. Which is harder than it sounds.

Details Pedicure from £55. At Daniel Hersheson, 45 Conduit Street, W1 (hershesons.com; 020 7434 1747).

THE FACIALIST

Who **Su-Man**

The lowdown Ex-dancer Su-Man is tiny. So tiny that if you've not had one of her facials, at the Josh Wood Atelier, you'd be forgiven for expecting them to be of the softly-softly variety. They're anything but: she'll pull your ears and pinch your cheeks, then lull you to sleep with some acupressure before waking things up with a sharp slap or two. She'll even do some shiatsu as you lie there with an algae mask on your face. And her own brand of products? They're good. So good, you'll want to swipe the lot. (You can – they sell them in the boutique.)

Our verdict Ferocious, but all that kneading gives you contours that even your husband will notice. Result.

Details £250 for 60 minutes. At Josh Wood Atelier, 6 Lansdowne Mews, W11 (joshwoodcolour.com; 020 3393 0977).

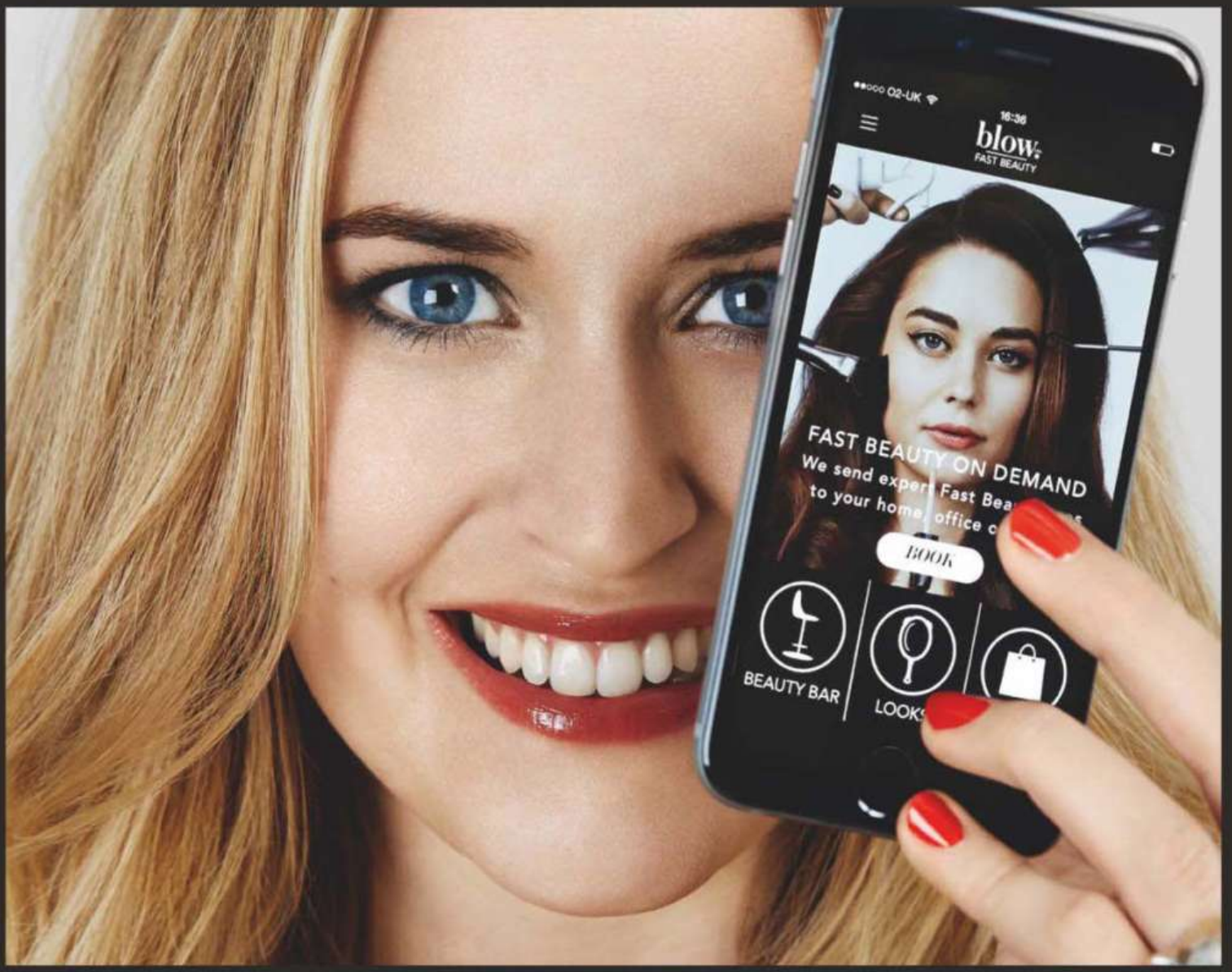
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HEADLINE ACTS

Presenting the stars of the hairdressing world – the stylists and colourists who can turn even the most untamed manes into luscious locks. Meet your new secret weapons...

PAUL EDMONDS

Paul Edmonds' elegant Knightsbridge townhouse salon is where the most glamorous luvvies come to let down their tresses – think Emma Thompson, Michelle Dockery, Margot Robbie and Catherine Zeta-Jones. They flock to the Georgian-inspired salon safe in the knowledge that they are in expert hands. Paul Edmonds is a true style innovator and an absolute authority on hair – he has taught some of the UK's best-known stylists – and the film and TV industry has his talented team on speed dial to create colour and styles for the latest films and television series. Paul himself has his finger on the pulse of the film world as a voting member of BAFTA. Whether you want to evolve, maintain or transform your hair, you can trust Paul's team to listen to your thoughts and then create a sophisticated look just for you. With a nail bar, beauty treatments and make-up artists on hand, you, too, can be a star of the silver screen.

pauledmonds.com





NEVILLE HAIR & BEAUTY

Neville Hair & Beauty has firmly established itself as one of London's leading hair salons. It has been a hotspot for all things chic since its formation in 1992. Here, a team of stylists and colourists champion an understated yet sophisticated look. With a burgeoning flock of clients that includes socialites, A-listers and royals, sleek is the order of the day. The team at Neville are highly sought after in the fashion arena – they have worked backstage at Fashion Week and for a whole host of big-name titles. Innovative and always on point, Neville is *the* choice for those in the know. With a full range of beauty services available too, this is the go-to destination for a complete goddess transformation.

nevillehairandbeauty.net

FOUR LONDON

BROOKE BOHAN
CHARLIE DOUBLE
DENISE ARNOLD
MALEEKA ROBB

You've heard of the Fantastic Four, but FOUR London could knock the socks of those superheroes any day. Four of Mayfair's leading hair-colour specialists joined forces to create this one-stop salon. And boy are they good! They're regularly called upon to work their hair wonders for TV programmes such as *Strictly Come Dancing* and boast a clientele who travel from as far afield as New York, Australia and Dubai. FOUR's expertise lies in colour continuity, colour correction and problem hair. Celebrities flock to their premises and if you feel like the star treatment yourself, why not try their VIP room. Nail, brow and facial services are also provided. Wow.

fourlondon.com



'I couldn't and wouldn't trust my hair to anyone other than FOUR London. I don't know another hair salon that is as genuine, honest and less intimidating. It feels like a real family'

YASMIN LE BON, MODEL

'Everyone needs a little colour in their life'

JO HANSFORD MBE



RYS

This buzzing Knightsbridge salon is headed up by creative director Yilmaz Sahin, who has the unique reputation for being both a talented hair stylist and a superb colourist. The result? Head-turning hair that has VIPs from around the world clamouring for some pampering from this creative genius. His team are equally as skilled – the styling director's thermal scissors cut will have you raving – and the friendly salon has a mood of pure energy. In addition to styling, colouring and hair treatments, Rys has an extensive beauty menu ranging from nails, reflexology, eyelash extensions and make-up lessons. It prides itself on wonderful service and has an app so you can book directly with your stylist. And did we mention the alfresco styling garden? Fun and creative – get the app now.

ryshairandbeauty.com

CAROL JOY LONDON

GILLE

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Carol Joy London is set in the plush surrounds of The Dorchester Spa and, naturally, it attracts a pretty starry clientele. They come to tap the talent of Brazilian-born Gille who has brought new styling techniques and treatments to London, notably that hair-straightening saviour, the Brazilian Blow Dry. The A-list come for the salon's very personal luxurious experience, which is tailored to meet your look and lifestyle – as well as Gille's expertise with hair extensions. This December sees the launch of The New Brazilian, which takes the Brazilian Blow Dry to a new level. This will give you the frizz-free, super-shiny finish that we all love but now without the nasties, so no formaldehyde and parabens. Hurrah. Take a detour to the Spa for a Carol Joy anti-ageing facial to complete your visit. One of London's best-kept secrets, the word is out...

caroljoylondon.com; 020 7319 7090





JO HANSFORD

Have you ever wondered what or *who* makes the manes of Elizabeth Hurley and Gwyneth Paltrow quite so luxurious? Step forward Jo Hansford. She is the colour wonder-worker revered by those in the know. For over two decades now, Jo Hansford has been livening up tints, highlights and full-bodied tones. Her award-winning salon is nestled in the heart of buzzy Mayfair and offers a whole range of hairstyling and beauty treatments. Jo Hansford uses her own line of premium hair care products – free of nasty things like sulfates they keep hair glossy and healthy. Unsurprisingly, Jo was awarded an MBE for services to the hairdressing industry in 2010. Go on, give your locks some regal TLC.

johansford.com

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JO HANSFORD WORTH £28.50*





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Heal your hair in minutes with the Jo Hansford Expert Colour Care Intensive Masque. This rich formula, suitable for all hair types, hydrates instantly, using a blend of natural ingredients that leaves locks looking luscious and super-healthy. Sweet Blue Lupin Peptides protect against colour-fade whilst Sunflower Seed Extract nourishes frequently coloured hair. Meanwhile, Keratin boosts the strength of hair by improving its protein structure and protecting from external damage and pollutants. Intensive Masque can be used as a speedy hair-repair fix or as a more indulgent, intensive overnight treatment. Plus, it's light enough to be used daily so even the finest hair won't be weighed down.

'I created this luxurious Intensive Masque to protect and enhance colour treated hair. Dubbed 'the little pot of magic' by my clientele, it will deeply moisturise hair without weighing it down.' Jo Hansford MBE

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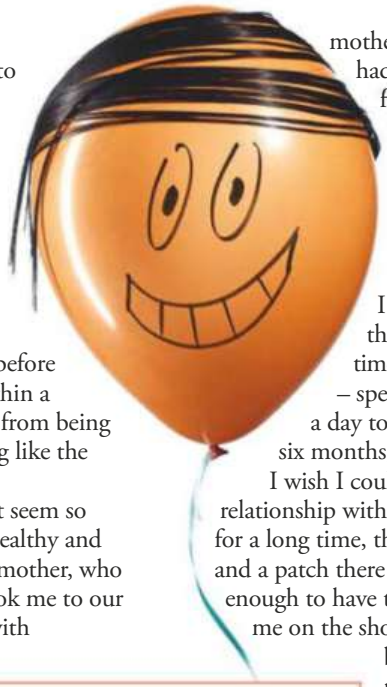
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LOSING IT

What happens when you are 19 and your hair starts to fall out? Nothing good. But help is at hand: Bryony Gordon has been through the agony – and has come out the other side, with the hair to prove it

When I was 19, and about to head off to university with a head full of hopes and dreams, my hair fell out. My sister noticed it first, during a bored, Sunday-afternoon styling session. There was a small, smooth patch, the size of a 50-pence piece, that in the coming weeks grew to the size of a £5 note and then a £10 note, before being joined by another patch of similar dimensions. Within a couple of months, I was almost completely bald – I went from being a teenage girl with a head of long, luscious hair, to looking like the man with the combover from the Hamlet cigar advert.



I can make jokes about it now, but at the time it didn't seem so funny. Losing your hair when you are otherwise young, healthy and female is startling and more than a little frightening. My mother, who tells me now that she would go to bed crying about it, took me to our GP, who gave me a look that said, 'You're bothering me with something as trivial as your hair when there are *ill* people out there?' She told me I had something called alopecia areata, prescribed me some steroid cream to rub in, and sent me on my way feeling like a vain little madam. The steroid cream worked, to a point – one patch would disappear, only for another to pop up somewhere else. It was like playing Whac-A-Mole with my follicles.

I looked the condition up on the internet. Had a brief flirtation with Sun In during my early teens caused it? Did it have something to do with the fact I always had nits? 'Stress', concluded most websites when I searched, which was not entirely helpful given that losing your hair has a funny habit of making you feel... well, *stressed*. I started to wear headscarves, but was teased on the street for looking like a milkmaid (more than 15 years later, how I would love to be accused of looking like a milkmaid!). Like most teenage girls, I was not overly blessed with self-esteem, but as my hair stopped growing, my insecurities bloomed. Our hair is supposed to be our crowning glory – it is one of the first things we see on someone. So, what if there is very little *to* see?

I developed bulimia, I think because it gave me some way of controlling my body. I felt bad about losing my hair, and then I felt bad about feeling bad, because there were people out there who were bald because of chemotherapy. Eventually, my mother found a woman called Lucinda Ellery, who had developed a set of hair extensions for the follicly challenged lady after her own experiences of hair loss. By a miracle, Lucinda was based down the road in Hammersmith, and we booked in immediately.

'Darling, you'll be able to swing from the chandelier with this hair once we're finished!' she told me when I visited her for my consultation. I was so relieved that I went home and cried for the rest of the day, realising that this was the first time I had allowed myself to do so. The extensions – specially made so as not to disturb the scalp – took a day to attach and the results were incredible. Within six months, most of my hair had grown back.

I wish I could tell you that this was the end of my relationship with alopecia, but it wasn't. It would stay with me for a long time, though I got quite used to it – a patch here and a patch there could easily be masked because I am lucky enough to have thick hair. I remember a man at work tapping me on the shoulder to tell me that he was terribly sorry, but he thought I should know I had a bald patch. 'Do you really think I don't know?' I laughed in his face.

I got ballsy. I was not going to allow my alopecia to steal from me the chance to spend hours having my hair done. I discovered Daniel Galvin Jr, my hair hero, who would dye and style my locks just the same as he would for any of his aristocratic or celebrity clients. He made me comfortable in my own skin again. I met someone, fell in love, got pregnant. And then an amazing thing happened – my alopecia completely disappeared, for the first time in more than a decade.

It came back when my daughter was 18 months old – a doctor told me this was normal, given that alopecia is an autoimmune disorder and pregnancy can be like a resetting of the immune system. But my perspective had changed by then. I didn't care. It grew back. Having been ruled by my hair for most of my adult life, I was now ruling it. As Ivana Trump once said: gorgeous hair is the best revenge. And boy oh boy, have I finally got one over on my alopecia. ☐

Lucinda Ellery, 312 King Street, W6 (lucindaellery.com; 020 8741 8224).
Daniel Galvin Jr, 4 West Halkin Street, SW1 (danielgalvinjunior.com; 020 7245 1050).

WHEN YOU NEED PATCHING UP

AVEDA

Home to some lovely 'thicker, fuller-hair-certified artists' who cut and style to help hide the thinning. Aveda's Invati products also help to stimulate follicle activity. *From £45 (aveda.co.uk)*

PHILIP KINGSLEY

A top trichological clinic that has treated hundreds of women and men for hair loss, from teens to the menopausal. Its new Prescriptive Hair-Healing Spa Treatment uses steam to improve the condition of the scalp. *From £80 (philipkingsley.co.uk)*

THE CHAMOMILE SUITE

A hair-loss specialists in Battersea (it also does an at-home service in London) offering a range of ready-to-wear and bespoke wigs, partial-hair systems and extensions. *Free for first two consultations (chamomilesuite.co.uk)*

PHOTOGRAPH: PLAINPICTURE/LOHFINK

THE SALON ADDICT'S PRODUCTS OF CHOICE

For those who wouldn't dream of ever doing their own hair.
By Katie Thomas

















ISLE OF ROSES

Rose Hair Oil, £42
A total wonder product. Rub between your palms, then smooth on to tame flyaway hairs and sort out static.

REDKEN

Diamond Oil Glow Dry, £32.50
The vibrancy of just-coloured hair doesn't last as long as one would hope. This oil adds some much-needed shine.

RAHUA

Voluminous Spray Hair Refresher, £25
On the morning of your next blowdry, spray this straight onto your roots to avoid any 'look how greasy her hair is' stares.

LEONOR GREYL

Baume Bois de Rose Modelling and Sculpting Balm, £33.50
When your style slips halfway through the day, dig this pot out of your handbag for a reshape.

PHILIP KINGSLEY

Finishing Touch Hairspray, £8
A magical wand that will freeze your hair in time, this is an essential product to keep in your kit box.

SHOW BEAUTY

Decadence Hair Fragrance, £55
Because between salon visits your hair might get a little whiffy. So spritz this all over for a scent that screams 'just left the salon'.

KERASTASE

Fluidissime Complete Anti-Frizz Care, £19.50
It's not customary to take a product with you to the salon, but you *should* take this one. Ask your stylist, nicely, to use it pre-blowdry for unprecedented smoothness.

JOSH WOOD

Root Concealer in Light Blonde, £12.50
Forgotten to book in with the colourist before that inch of darkness appears either side of your parting? This eliminates the between-appointments panic.

STILL-LIFES: PSC

NOT TODAY, DEAR HAIR

For low-maintenance ladies



ORIGINAL MINERAL

Gold Smoothing Balm, £26
This balm repairs broken hair and takes it back to a virginal state.



JOHN FRIEDA

Luxurious Volume 7 Day Volume In-Shower Treatment, £9.99
For when things start looking a wee bit limp. Apply after shampooing and conditioning, then rinse. Your hair will stay higher for longer.



BUMBLE AND BUMBLE

Don't Blow It (H)air Styler, £23
Who has time to blowdry after every wash? This little beauty gives you that salon-sleek look without you having to pick up a hairdryer.



MOROCCANOIL

Smoothing Lotion, £29.25
Hair can sometimes act like a petulant child – misbehaving and wild. Playing the strict au pair, this lotion will tame the naughtiness.



OGX

Miracle In-Shower Oil, £7.99
Add a few drops to your shampoo and conditioner for hair that will look the best it has in years.



AVEDA

Shampure Dry Shampoo, £22
So tiny and cute – the perfect size for when you're on the go.



WINDLE & MOODIE

Matte Texture Spray, £20
Delete your current bestie from your contacts. She doesn't transform your hair from flat to big come-hither brilliance. This does. This is your new best friend.



CHRISTOPHE ROBIN

Purifying Hair Finish Lotion, £36
Not only does this refresh hair between washes, but you can also spray it all over your body for baby-soft skin.

SQUEAKY-CLEAN DREAMS

You wash every day, sometimes twice...

OLAPLEX

Hair Perfector No. 3, from £35 for in-salon treatment
The take-home step of the snazzy new in-salon Olaplex treatment, which protects hair from the damages of colouring. Use as a mask or – if hair is seriously frazzled – leave it in.



BOUCLEME

Curl Defining Gel, £15
Work this gel through soaking-wet hair post-shower. Curls will be bouncy and beautiful, not messy and mad.



DAVINES

Momo Hair Potion, £17.15
Washing hair every day can strip it of its natural oils. Pop this on while it's damp for a thirst-quenching boost.



COLOR WOW

Speed Dry Blow-Dry Spray, £16.50
Your mornings just got a lot faster. You are most welcome.



SACHAJUAN

Hair Cleansing Cream, £28
Second-day hair stays where you ask it to and doesn't ever look fluffy. This cleansing cream gives you exactly that – even though you've just given it a good clean.



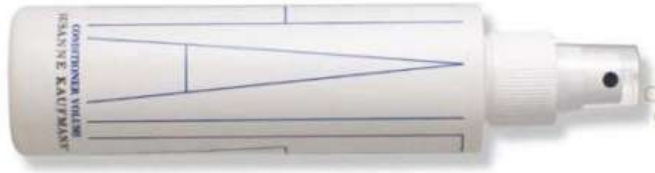
NEXXUS

Oil Infinite Shampoo, £15
Don't be afraid of oil. Oil is good. And this shampoo is packed full of good oils to look after your hair.



SUSANNE KAUFMANN

Conditioner Volume, £25
Calling all fine-haired fillies. After shampooing, spray this all over and leave in for thick and lustrous princess hair.



PERCY & REED

Totally TLC Hydrating Mask, £20 Cover from roots to tips, then wear the cap that comes with. You won't look sexy during, but you definitely will after.



STILL-LIFES: PSC

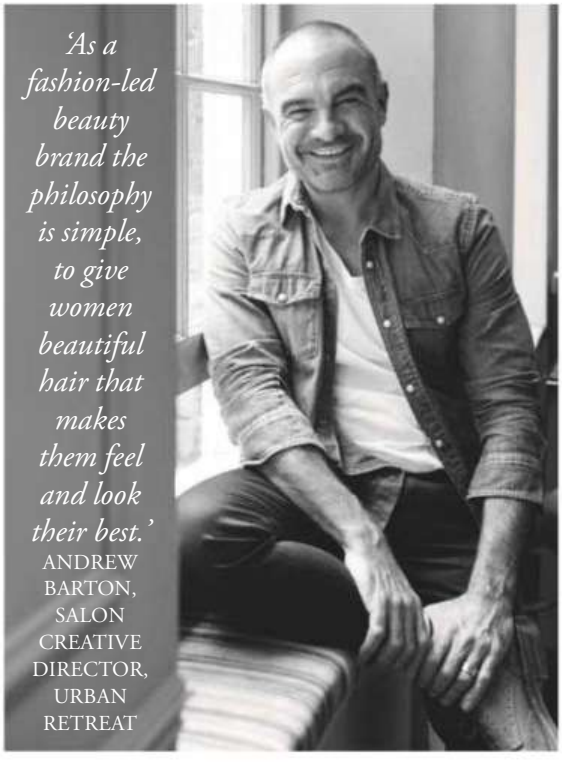
STAR QUALITY

Put Urban Retreat on speed dial, it's the ultimate hair and beauty destination

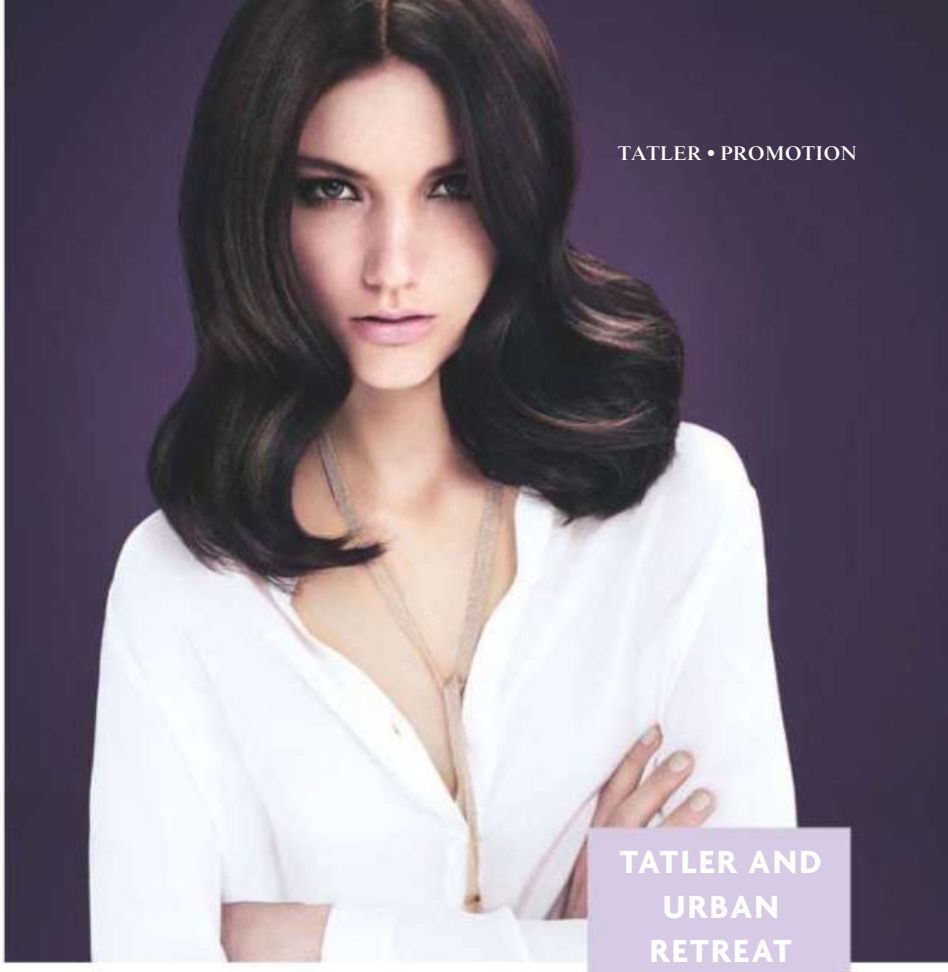
When it comes to grooming, we like our hair and beauty in one place, a one-stop shop if you like. Look no further than the little slice of beauty paradise that is Urban Retreat, high up on the fifth floor of Harrods. This is the beauty oasis that those in-the-know swear by and now with new salon creative director, internationally renowned hairdresser Andrew Barton, on board it's even more fabulous than usual.

With a reputation for creating gorgeous, show-stopping hair, Barton has taken Urban Retreat's colour and cut services to a new level. This is the place to come for the best blowdries in town, fantastically elegant cuts that are tailored to your face shape and lifestyle and on-trend colour to lift your look. For inspiration, Barton has even created a Simply BEautiful collection of four polished looks for all ages. This talented, caring and creative team will be your best-kept secret.

And then there's the beauty salon, a sanctuary devoted to face and body treatments from the very best brands. Think La Prairie, Crème de la Mer and Guinot – this is luxury that gets results. Add in the incredible Moroccan Hammam, the Make-Up Salon, where professional make-up artists will get you red-carpet ready using top beauty brands, a MediSpa and nail bar and you get the picture – glamorous and, oh-so stylish, Urban Retreat is the only place to do your grooming.



'As a fashion-led beauty brand the philosophy is simple, to give women beautiful hair that makes them feel and look their best.'
ANDREW BARTON, SALON CREATIVE DIRECTOR, URBAN RETREAT



POP UP

THE ANDREW BARTON COUTURE STYLING AND COCKTAIL BAR

This is a truly fun festive pop-up. Let Urban Retreat style your hair, using Kérastase Couture products, into one of six glamorous looks that reflect the world's most famous cocktails – while you sip the inspiration! Whether it's a beachy blowdry Sea Breeze style or an elegant up-do as classic as a Kir Royale, there's a look for everyone.

£40 for a 30-minute appointment, including your cocktail.



KERASTASE LIFT VERTIGE, £21.
KERASTASE MOUSSE BOUFFANTE, £19.50.
KERASTASE SHORT MANIA SCULPTING PASTE, £19.50



CLASSIC KIR ROYALE LOOK

For more information and to book, please call 020 7893 8333 or visit urbanretreat.co.uk

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AT

URBAN RETREAT

ON 24 NOVEMBER

5.30-8.30PM

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Tickets are £40 and include a complimentary hair consultation with Urban Retreat's salon creative director Andrew Barton and a goodie bag as well as delicious cocktails and canapés to kickstart your festive fun.

TO BOOK

Call Urban Retreat on 0207 893 8333 and quote TATLER2015. Places are limited and tickets, which are non-refundable, will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

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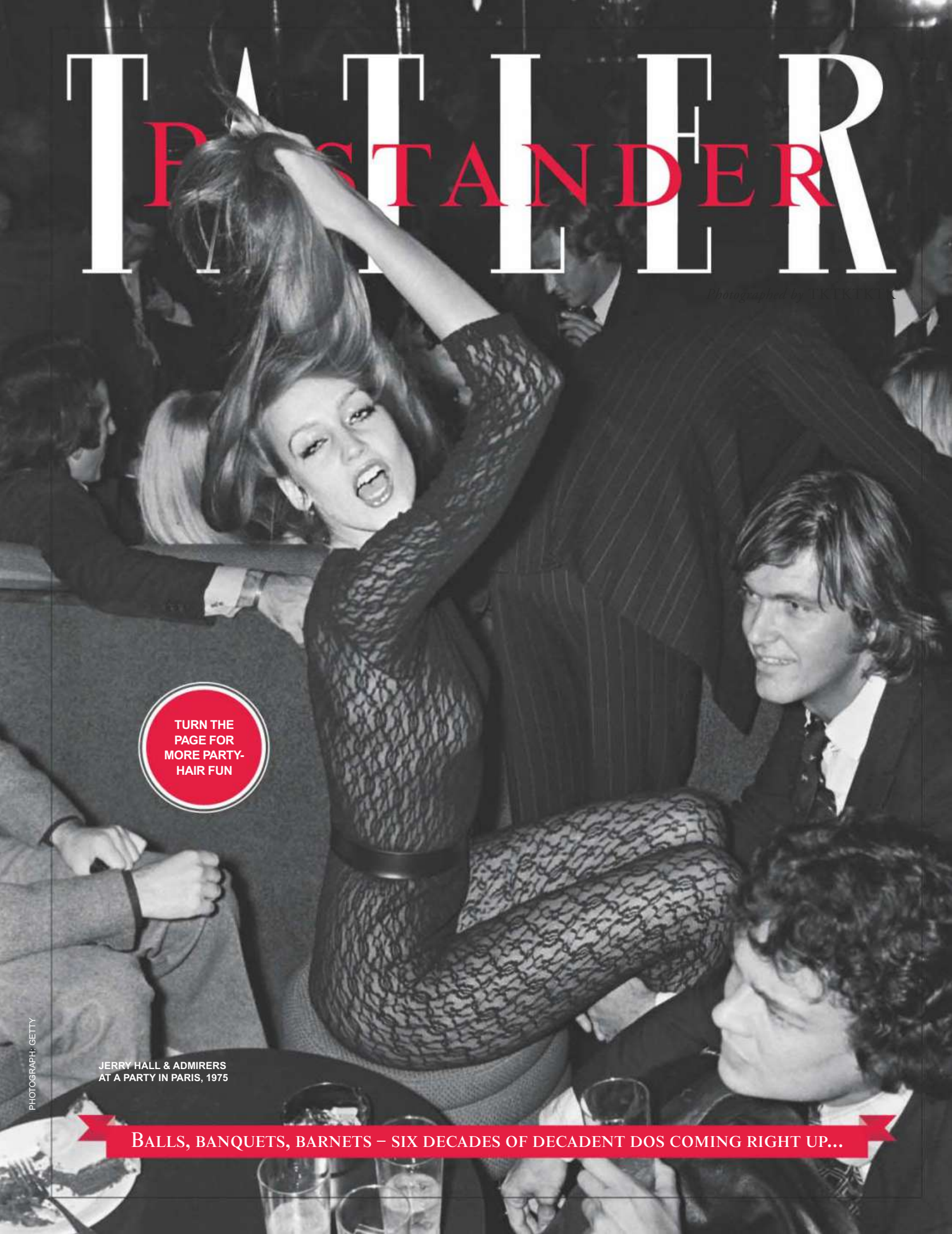
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TATLER BYSTANDER



TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE PARTY-HAIR FUN

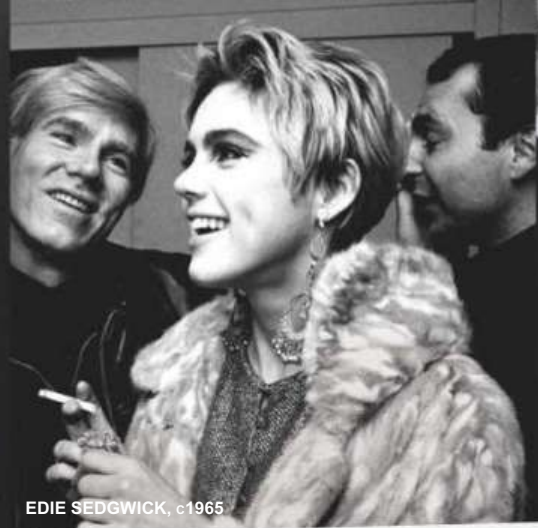
JERRY HALL & ADMIRERS AT A PARTY IN PARIS, 1975

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY

BALLS, BANQUETS, BARNETS – SIX DECADES OF DECADENT DOS COMING RIGHT UP...



JEAN SHRIMPTON, 1967



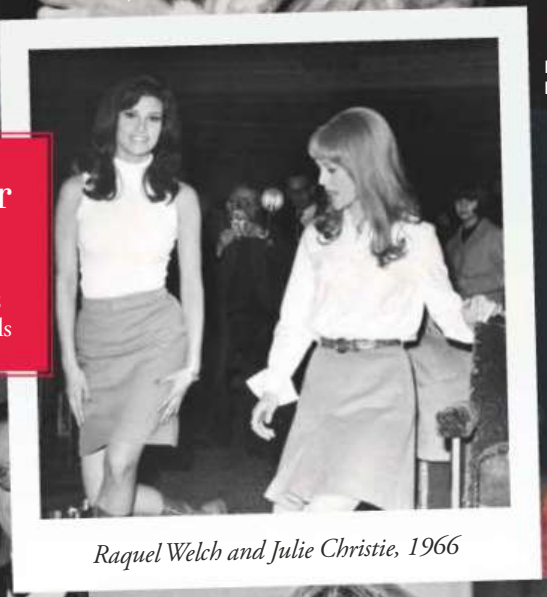
EDIE SEDGWICK, c1965



FRANK SINATRA & MIA FARROW, 1966

Modern party-hair essentials...

Flowers, real or fake; silk scarves; Heidi braids; ribbon; family jewels



Raquel Welch and Julie Christie, 1966



ELIZABETH TAYLOR, 1968

MARIANNE FAITHFULL, 1965



RAINE, COUNTESS SPENCER , 1960



THE PRINCESS ROYAL, 1971





JOANNA LUMLEY, 1976



MICK JAGGER & JERRY HALL, 1985



LADY HELEN TAYLOR & THE DUCHESS OF KENT, 1985

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES, 1985



LYNN WYATT, 1981



SUSANNAH CONSTANTINE, 1985



PRINCESS MICHAEL OF KENT, 1980



PHOTOGRAPHS: REX, GETTY, CORBIS, DAFYDD JONES, PA, CAMERA PRESS



AMANDA HARLECH, 1997



ALIAI FORTE, 1986



JADE JAGGER, 2002



VISCOUNTESS LINLEY, 1994



LAURA BAILEY, 2013

THE MANE EVENT

There's a party on my head

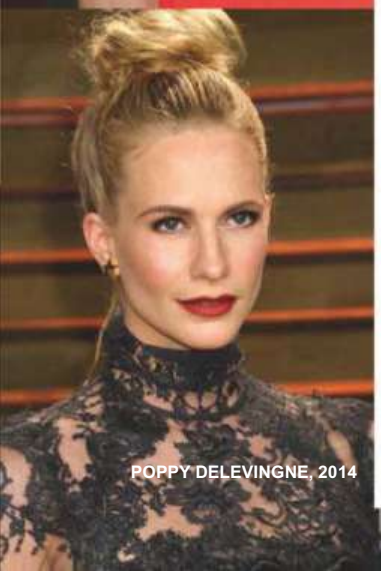
Going-out hair is not leaving-the-house hair, it's leaving-your-life hair. It's entering-a-parallel-universe hair, with the hairdresser's chair as your Tardis, your portal, your wormhole to a place where you are the you you want to be. For one night only. Because the best party hair is a one-off. A perfect storm of artistry, mood and moment – never to be seen again. If you are **Edie** or **Mia** or **Marianne** (or, in fact, anyone known by one name only) – the kind of woman who goes out with the hair she wakes up with – then you are the exception. But do not be envious of these follicular luminaries – their self-definition was so powerful that they couldn't play. Play like **Liz Taylor**, play like **Josephine de la Baume**, play like **Daphne Guinness** (darkly playful, but still), play like **Kate Moss** – her generation's standout *playa*. ***AR***



JOSEPHINE DE LA BAUME, 2013



KATE MOSS, 2004



POPPY DELEVINGNE, 2014



CAREY MULLIGAN, 2013



DAPHNE GUINNESS, 2008



SIENNA MILLER, 2007

What's it like to be...
THE HAIR OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS



Boris Johnson

Blonds have more fun! Such is the conclusion of the electorate of London, my friends, hence seven years (*tempus fugit!*) gadding about town running the show. The general public loves a bit of flaxen de Pfeffel fluffiness getting stuck on a zip wire or giving a cantankerous cabbie a bit of what-ho, Jeeves. None of that cosy Cameron combing round here. I prefer to feel the wind rippling through me – and to permanently look like I'm feeling the wind rippling through me – as I streak through the capital on an eponymous bike, delighting the tourists. *Inter nos*, but I'm not actually this scruffy. I'm quite flat and straight, but Boris prefers me to look cajoled, restless, eager. I get a good ruffling just before we sidle up to the spotlight for a hearty chinwag with a journalist or spot of rousing Ciceronian oratory on camera. Got to give the people what they want. There are no hair disasters! Only opportunities. And indeed, opportunities for fresh hair disasters! Might have to tidy myself up a bit if I end up in the Top Job – not that that's the plan. About as much chance of that as being decapitated by a frisbee or finding Elvis, as Boris himself once said. Things change though, don't they? If the Colossus that is public opinion weighs in, then we might find that the blessed sponge of amnesia has wiped the slate clean, that's all I'm saying.



Victoria Beckham

Hello fashion bunnies!!!! Just back from another transatlantic business trip with VB, so feeling well knackered. She's wearing me long these days, swept to one side looking expensive, and that takes work. Can't just totter off a private jet with 10-hour bed hair because that isn't, like, fashion. VB is a big hitter, so I get a lot of scrutiny. Always have done – I've been through more evolutions than you've had hot dinners, love. There was the Posh Spice bob, a phase of spiky crops, a blonde side swoop – I've done it all. Old Goldenballs, needless to say, only needs a slick of hair oil and he's out the door in his H&M pants, pulsing with handsomeness. Not that he hasn't had his fair share of change. There was his Man U bob, a phase of spiky crops, a blond side swoop – we like a bit of matching. Say what you like about VB, but how many women do you know who've had *two* hugely successful careers? She takes her work seriously, even though she's not a serious person. Puts me in a side-plait and plays football in the house with the kids. Bloody great smile on her face the entire time until you put a camera in her way. Fashion stole her smile. That actually happened.



Harry Styles

So tired. So incredibly tired. Don't know what day it is. What country it is. Who that girl is. What is this place? A hotel? A shed? Who even cares? Got to find the energy to do a gig tonight – another stadium, another 80,000 girls who want to grab me, or snip bits off me and build shrines around me. It's been five years of non-stop attention. I think I've now been around the world 400 times. Or is it 4,000? At first I was young and naïve, just a perky, lustrous flick that inspired a billion schoolboys to brush theirs forward and drive their mothers mad. Things are different now. I'm different. Long in the tooth – long in the strand. I've tried to put girls off to give Harry a break – let myself not be washed or allow myself to slip into a terrifying frizz when it's rainy, but nothing works. It's impossible to get people not to fancy him. He's too irresistible, it's exhausting. I mean, obviously I'm incredibly grateful and blessed, all that stuff, but I quite feel like, you know, disappearing for a bit. Then I could do my own thing. Be myself instead of who they want me to be. Maybe I could get a trim or-or-or change colour or even go, you know, REALLY short? They won't let me do that now. 'The fans wouldn't like it,' they always say. And the fans must have what they want. Where am I again?



Joan Collins's wig

Listen, darling – if you can't make it, fake it. That's always been my motto. Dame J and I have been working together for well over 30 years, can you believe it? Who can be bothered with hairdryers and curlers and dye, blah blah, when you've got me in all my instant perfection? All Joan has to do is wedge me onto her head and we're ready for our close-up. I'm devoted to her, which is perhaps inevitable when you spend all day clinging to someone's scalp. When you work with a legend like Joan, you have to expect the unexpected – which is why I come in different cuts and colours, so I can match her mood. The legendary look, of course, is the 'Alexis': short and commanding in royal caramel. I miss the *Dynasty* days. Joan in a one-shoulder taffeta gown, cigarillo in her hand and fire in her eyes, shrieking, 'Damn you, Dex!' as she flung a glass across the room. I always did my own stunts and particularly enjoyed the fight scenes with dear Linda, who played Krystle. Her hair was positively erect with hairspray – and as Joan rammed her head into a wall or tried to knock her out with a vase, and Krystle pushed us down the stairs or over a table, I used to think, 'This is what I got into show business for.'

WORDS BY: CLARE BENNETT. PHOTOGRAPHS: REX, SPLASH NEWS, WIRE IMAGE


OUR SPA HERITAGE
Proud of our British roots, we continue to pioneer the global spa industry, uniting the world's most effective spa philosophies and bringing them into the 21st century.
We've created a luxurious collection of spas and highly efficacious, beautifully natural products and treatments used every day by over 3000 therapists in 450 spas across the globe.
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STRENGTH
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SOFTNESS
BODY
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